

GAZETTEER OF INDIA



PUNJAB

FIROZPUR

PUNJAB DISTRICT GAZETTEERS



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FOREWORD

The last edition of the Firozpur District Gazetteer was published in 1915 and a new edition has been long over-due. The new Gazetteers unlike those in the pre-Independence days are to be based on detailed study of practically all aspects of life of the people in a region. These are expected to be not merely guide books for the administrators but also are expected to have useful material for journalists, research scholars and members of the general public who are interested in the subject. It is indeed difficult to present a true picture of a scene that is changing very fast. I hope the present volume would be found to be a useful effort.

R. C. KAPILA

CHANDIGARH :
14 February 1983.

**Financial Commissioner, Revenue,
Punjab.**



PREFACE

This volume is the sixth in the series of the Punjab District Gazetteers published under the scheme of Revision of District Gazetteers. The previous editions of the Firozpur District Gazetteer were prepared under the British regime from time to time, as detailed below :

The original edition of the Firozpur District Gazetteer was published in 1883-84. It was mainly based on the Settlement Reports and a draft Gazetteer compiled between 1870 and 1874 by Mr. F. Cunningham, Barrister-at-Law. Notes on certain points were supplied by district officers, while the Census Report of 1881 was also utilized. Shortly after the publication of the first edition of the gazetteer, the area of the district was considerably enlarged in consequence of the partition of the then Sirsa District which took place in November 1884. The whole of the Fazilka Tahsil (together with a few villages from the Dabwali Tahsil) was attached to this district. A revised edition of the gazetteer was thus rendered necessary, which was published in 1888-89. Mr E. B. Francis, Settlement Officer, Firozpur, appears to have been responsible for this revision. After the publication of the revised edition of the gazetteer, numerous changes took place and the district developed greatly. Another revised edition was, therefore, prepared in 1915 and published in 1916 by Mr M. M. L. Currie, Settlement Officer, Firozpur. It was based on the previous edition of 1888-89, but a considerable amount of new matter was included.

Besides the above-mentioned three editions of the main descriptive volume of the district gazetteer in the old series, their Statistical Tables were prepared in 1904, 1913 and 1935 and published in separate volumes.

Since the compilation of the last edition of the Firozpur District Gazetteer in the middle of the second decade of the present century and especially after the achievement of independence in 1947, vast developments have taken place in the political, social, cultural and economic life of the people. The partition of the country in 1947 placed the district on the international border with Pakistan. The mass migration of the minority population from both sides of the border with Pakistan completely changed the social set-up of the region. The implementation of the Five-Year Plans has brought about vast development in all spheres of life. An attempt has been made to depict the impact of such developments and changes in the present volume of the gazetteer.

The preparation of the present edition of the Firozpur District Gazetteer was actually taken up in April 1971. By the time the draft was about to be completed, the hitherto district of Firozpur was bifurcated on 7 August 1972, and two of its tahsils/subdivisions, viz. Moga

and Muktsar were transferred to the newly created Faridkot District. Thus, the re-organized Firozpur District was left with the remaining three tahsils/subdivisions, viz. Firozpur, Zira and Fazilka (including the Sub-tahsil Abohar). Since the data for the gazetteer was collected and compiled before the bifurcation of the district, it was decided that the gazetteer may be recast by eliminating the data and references of places pertaining to the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, wherever possible. Accordingly, the gazetteer was revised and sent to the Government of India in November 1975 which was received back in November 1977 after their approval. However, due to certain procedural factors, the publication of the gazetteer remained withheld. As the information/data contained in the gazetteer related to the year 1971-72, it was, therefore decided in 1980 to revise it to bring the figures upto date. Accordingly, the gazetteer was revised and the information/data upto the year 1979-80 was incorporated.

It would be interesting to note that the Survey of India have changed the spellings of the district 'Ferozepore' to that of 'Firozpur' which have been adopted in this gazetteer.

In the preparation of this volume, the Gazetteers Unit has benefited immensely by the able guidance and encouragement given by the Financial Commissioners, Revenue, and other officers of the Department from time to time.

My thanks are due to the staff of the Gazetteers Unit, viz Sarvshri Jagmohan Singh Hans, Rajinder Singh Gandhi, Editors ; Rajinder Kumar Gupta, Ved Parkash Rampal and Mohinder Singh Sandhu, Compilers ; and Sureshar Lal Sahi, Draftsman-cum-Artist for assisting me in the preparation of this volume.

I am indebted to the late Dr Kishan Singh Bedi, M. Sc. (Agr. Pb), Ph. D (minn) USA, retired Joint Director, Agriculture, Punjab, for going through the draft and making useful suggestions. It is a matter of satisfaction that he accomplished this job a few days prior to his demise in December 1981.

My thanks are also due to Dr P.N. Chopra, Editor (Gazetteers) and the officers of the Central Gazetteers Unit, New Delhi, for their scrutiny of the draft and making useful suggestions.

I am grateful to the various Heads of departments and offices in the State, especially the Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur, and the different officers working under him for extending whole-hearted cooperation in supplying the requisite information and data for the compilation of this volume.

Thanks are also due to the Controller, Printing and Stationery, Chandigarh, and his staff for extending full cooperation in the printing of this volume.

CHANDIGARH

B.R. SHARMA

1 October 1982

STATE EDITOR, GAZETTEERS

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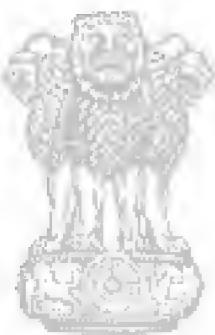
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CHAPTER I

GENERAL

(a) Introductory

(i) **Origin of the Name of the Firozpur District.**—The name Firozpur obviously means the town of Firoz. Probably the founder was Firoz Shah Tughlaq (A.D. 1351—88), as the place must always have occupied an important position on the line of communication between Delhi and Lahore. Another tradition, however, ascribes its foundation to one of the Bhatti chiefs, named Firoz Khan, in the middle of the sixteenth century.

(ii) **Location, General Boundaries, Total Area and Population of the District.**—The Firozpur District lies between latitude 29°—55' and 31°—09' and between longitude 73°—53' and 75°—24'. Before 15 August 1973, this district was the southernmost of the seven districts of the Jalandhar Division of the Punjab State. On that date, the new Firozpur Division¹ was formed and the Firozpur District was included in it. The boundary of the present Firozpur District on the east runs along the Faridkot District. On the north-east, the River Satluj generally separates it from the Jalandhar and Kapurthala districts. The united stream of the Satluj and the Beas generally separates it from the Amritsar District in the north-west, and farther down from the Pakistan, with the exception of some areas on each side of the river.

The District comprises three tahsils/subdivisions, viz. Firozpur in the middle, Zira on the east, Fazilka on the south-west. All important places in the District are connected by rail or road.

Almost 11 km from the Hussainiwala border on the west and 121 km from Ludhiana in the east lies the City of Firozpur, the headquarters of the District administration. By road, it is 116 km from Amritsar, 130 km from Jalandhar, 122 km from Ludhiana, 103 km from Bathinda (*via* Kot Kapura), and 86 km from Fazilka. The city lies on the Firozpur Cantonment—Ludhiana Branch Line of the Northern Railway.

¹Punjab Government, Revenue Department, Notification No. 2141-Rg-1-73/2334, dated 10 August 1973, published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 10 August 1973.

According to the Director of Land Records, Punjab, Jalandhar, the area of the District during 1971-72 was 5864.06 sq. km. The tahsil-wise area is given below:

Tahsil	Area (sq. km.)
Tahsil Firozpur	.. 1,813.37
Tahsil Zira	.. 1,312.64
Tahsil Fazilka	.. 2,738.05
District Firozpur	.. 5,864.06

According to the 1981 Census, the population of the Firozpur District was 13,07,804 comprising that of the Firozpur Tahsil—4,36,655, that of the Zira Tahsil—2,95,958 and that of the Fazilka Tahsil—5,75,191.

(iii) History of the District as an Administrative Unit and the Changes in its Component Parts.—The district came into being on the annexation of Firozpur by the British in 1836. As a result of the First Anglo-Sikh War, 1845-46, the *ilaqas* of Khai Mudki, etc. and certain other Lahore territories, east of the Satluj, were added to it. When the Badhni District (now called Badhni Kalan in the Faridkot District) was broken up in 1847, some of its parts were added to the Firozpur District. The next addition comprised portions of the *ilaqas* of Muktsar and Kot Kapura in 1852. In 1856, the estates of the deposed Nawab of Mamdot were annexed. In 1958, Village of Sibian was taken back from the Faridkot State. On the partition of the Sirsa District in 1884, its western half was included in the Firozpur District. In 1959, the Nathana Sub-Tahsil (comprising 37 villages) of the Firozpur Tahsil was transferred to the Bathinda District. On the exchange of enclaves between India and Pakistan on 17 January 1961, following an agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan on 11 January 1960, certain areas in the vicinity of the Suleimanki Headworks in the Fazilka Tahsil were transferred to Pakistan in exchange of the areas near the Hussaniwala Headworks. These areas were added to the Firozpur Tahsil.

On 17 March 1970, 3 villages of the Zira Tahsil of the Firozpur District were transferred to the Shahkot Sub-Tahsil of the Nakodar Tahsil of the Jalandhar District. Eighteen villages of the Nakodar Tahsil of the Jalandhar District were transferred to the Zira Tahsil of the Firozpur District. Nine villages of the Patti Tahsil of the Amritsar District were transferred to the Zira Tahsil of the Firozpur District².

²Punjab Government, Revenue Department, Notification No. 564-RG-1-70/727, dated 17 March 1970.

The above-mentioned 9 villages, transferred from the Patti Tahsil of the Amritsar District to the Zira Tahsil of the Firozpur District were further transferred to the Firozpur Tahsil on 15 September 1971³.

On 7 August 1972, two tahsils, namely Moga and Muktsar, of the Firozpur District were transferred to the Faridkot District, formed on the same date.⁴ The Firozpur District was, thus, left with only three tahsils, namely Firozpur, Zira and Fazilka, with a total number of 1,054 inhabited villages.

(iv) **Subdivisions, Tahsils and Thanas.**—The District is divided into three tahsils, namely Firozpur, Zira and Fazilka, all of which have been upgraded to subdivisions and are under the control of three subdivisional officers.

The tahsil-wise list of police-stations and police posts, in the District is given in Chapter XII 'Law and Order and Justice'.

(b) Topography

Physiographically, the Firozpur District constitutes a part of the Punjab plain, which is largely flat and featureless and is formed of pleistocene and Sub-recent alluvial deposits of the Indo-Gangetic system. Wind action has also played a part in shaping the relief of the District, located as it is in the vicinity of the Rajasthan Desert. That is why the alluvial surface of the District is strewn with sand-dunes in some parts.

The general elevation of the District ranges from 230 metres in the north-east to about 175 metres in the south-west, giving a north-east-to-south-west gradient of one metre in 4 km. Though the physiography of the District is apparently a homogeneous plain, in general, it displays significant variations, if examined at local levels. The following three terrain units can be identified :

- (i) The floodplain of the Satluj
- (ii) The sand-dune-infested tract
- (iii) The upland plain

³Punjab Government, Revenue Department, Notification No. 1614 RG-I-71/3296, dated 6 September 1971 published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extraordinary), dated 8 September 1971

⁴Punjab Government, Revenue Department, Notification No. 2120-RG-I-72/2155, dated 17 July 1972 published in the Punjab Government Gazette, Part I, dated 28 July 1972

(i) The Floodplain of the Satluj.—The floodplain of the Satluj occupies the northern half of the Zira Tahsil, the northern and western sections of the Firozpur Tahsil and the north-western part of the Fazilka Tahsil. This tract is locally known as *bet* Satluj. It is a lowlying, uneven 10-15-km-wide stretch of land along the Satluj River. It is covered with new alluvium and is separated from one sand-dune-infested tract to its south and east by a low cliff. Before the damming of the Satluj at Bhakra and the construction of barrages at Nangal and Harike, the River used to flood this tract during the rainy season. This area is quite safe from floods at present, giving stability to its settlements and agriculture. At places, the tract contains abandoned courses of the River, patches of marshy land, and pockets of thickly growing grasses. It is now being reclaimed for agriculture and other uses.

(ii) The Sand-Dune-Infested Tract.—This tract, which runs parallel to the *bet* Satluj to its south and east and which covers the lower part of the Zira Tahsil, the eastern half of the Firozpur Tahsil and the middle zone of the Fazilka Tahsil, is a linear stretch of numerous closely spaced sand-dunes. In fact, this tract coincides largely with the old course of the Satluj, through which the River used to flow about 400 years back, since when it has been drifting westwards. The base of the sand-dune-infested tract is formed of the alluvium deposited by the River. The sand-dunes here have been deposited by strong winds, from south-west and north-west, picking up sand largely from the dry bed of the River during winter and the pre-monsoon periods when the discharge in the River is meagre. The sand-dunes are small, a few hundred metres long, and generally low, only 2 to 5 metres above the level of the surrounding ground. However, these sand-dunes are spaced close to one another, providing a distinct type of topography.

(iii) The Upland Plain.—The upland plain, which includes the interior parts of the District, possesses a firm base of old alluvium, with sporadically distributed sand-dunes superimposed on it. Here, the soils are reddish brown sandy loam. Within the upland plain, however, there are differences in certain respects. The north-eastern part is higher (its elevation ranging from 215 to 230 metres) than the south-western part, the elevation of which is 175 to 200 metres. Moreover, the frequency of sand-dunes is more in the latter (which adjoins the Rajasthan Desert) than in the former.

It may be noted that many of the sand-dunes, both in the sand-dune-infested tract and in the upland plain, have been levelled by the farmers and brought under cultivation. This expansion in agricultural land

has been made possible by the extension of irrigation, particularly by canals. This development has brought about considerable changes in the topography of the District.

In brief, the physiography of the District was originally designed by the depositional work of the Satluj. Later on, it was worked over by the action of the wind simultaneously with that of the River. Recently, man has been instrumental in smoothing out some of the irregularities in relief consequent upon the development of canal irrigation.

(c) The River System and Water Resources

(i) The Main Rivers, Tributaries and Canals:—

The Satluj River.—The Satluj is the main river of the Firozpur District. It forms the northern boundary between this District and the districts of Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Amritsar. It also separates this District from Pakistan in most parts. The physiography of the district owes its origin largely to the alluvium deposited by this River.

The Satluj performs a total journey of about 200 kilometres along the northern and western borders of the Firozpur District. It enters the District near the Village of Bhodiwala after passing through the Jalandhar and Ludhiana districts. From here it follows a north-westerly course for about 40 km till it reaches Harike (situated in the Amritsar District to the other side of the River), where it is joined by the Beas River coming from the north-east. The Satluj flows towards west for about 15 km from Harike and then it turns south-west, a direction which it keeps through the rest of its journey in the District. It passes into Pakistan at Suleimanki.

The Satluj, like most of the rivers in northern India, has undergone a westward drift during the recent historical times. There is ample evidence to show that it ran through the present sand-dune-infested tract about 400 years back. At that time, it did not meet the Beas at Harike, but made its confluence with it somewhere between Bahawalpur and Multan. The westward drift is perhaps explained by Ferrel's law, according to which moving bodies in the Northern Hemisphere tend to drift to their right.

The Satluj used to be a furious river during the rainy season and used to cause much destruction through its floods before it was dammed up at Bhakra. The diversion of the waters of the River into canals at Nangal, Rupnagar, Harike and Hussainiwala has been responsible for significantly reducing the mighty stream into a semi-dry bed. The River now contains only a small trickle of water during most of the year.

The Sukar or Sukka Nala.—Mention may be made of the Sukar or Sukka *Nala* (dry channel) which is a small drainage channel marking its course between the new and the old beds of the Satluj River. In fact, this *Nala* occupies one of the abandoned courses of the Satluj. It originates near Tihara in the Ludhiana District, enters the Firozpur District near the Village of Jindra and traverses through the flood plain of the Satluj as the Sukka *Nala* in the Zira Tahsil and later on as the Sukhbar *Nala* in the Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils. This *Nala* has a characteristically serpentine course.

Canals.—Apart from the natural drainage lines discussed above, the District possesses a fairly dense net work of canals. The Rajasthan and the Bikaner canals pass through the District, but their waters are meant for use in Rajasthan only. The Eastern Canal System irrigates some areas of the District. Besides, the Sirhind Canal System serves the District.

In sum, it is only in its north and west that the District is traversed by the Satluj River. Otherwise, it is devoid of any other large natural body of water. Of course, it possesses a dense network of canals which play a prominent role in the agriculture of the District.

(ii) Underground Water Resources

Groundwater in the District occurs both under the water-table and under confined conditions. Shallow phreatic aquifers are unconfined and are tapped by means of open wells and shallow tube-wells. Systematic studies on groundwater in the District yet remain to be carried out. However, about 3,200 sq. km has been covered in connection with investigations into waterlogging. The studies have shown two very different groundwater conditions occurring in juxtaposition in the District. A longitudinal strip, broadly 35 km wide and running parallel to the Satluj River (between the Satluj and the Bikaner Canal) in a south-west to north-east direction from Fazilka to Firozpur, and then taking a swing towards the east in conformity with the bed of the River, has been affected with waterlogging. Waterlogging or the rise of the water-table to the base of the root zone of the plants has been particularly severe in the regions which are characterized by a low topographic relief. Waterlogging in this tract has been attributed chiefly to the high permeability, characteristics of the soil, to the rapid textural variation of the clastic material at shallow depths, the relatively low aquifer transmissibility, salt accretion in the soil and excessive recharge over the discharge of ground-water in the canal-command area. The water-table in this tract rests within three metres from the ground-level. Soil alkalinization has

been observed in certain places within the affected area. Shallow tube-wells drilled in this tract to depths ranging from 30 to 60 metres from the ground-level and the tapping of water-table aquifers yield between 45 and 90 kilolitres of water per hour at economic drawdowns. The chemical quality of the groundwater from these shallow tube-wells is generally fresh and potable and has been found suitable for domestic consumption and irrigation.

The area in the south and south-east of the waterlogged tract (i.e. south-east of the Bikaner Canal) suffers from acute scarcity of fresh potable groundwater. The water-table is generally deep and rests between 6 and 40 metres from the ground-level. The drop in the water-table outside the waterlogged areas generally conforms to the topographic rise. The water in the formation, by and large, is brackish to saline. It has been observed that the mineralization of groundwater increases with the depth of salinity, in general, and is chiefly attributed to aridity in this area. In addition, the low permeability of the water-bearing formations which progressively decrease with depth owing to overburden transists of great length from areas of recharge in the case of deep aquifers and a prolonged contract of water with the formation material may also raise the level of sodium chloride in the water at various depths. However, in certain localized areas, particularly in the canal-command areas, freshwater lenses resting over saline groundwater have been generally encountered. The formation of such freshwater lenses has chiefly resulted from the infiltration of canal water which effects (1) a dilution of the mineralized groundwater in the upper stratum of the zone of saturation, and (2) the accumulation of fresh recharged water over the saline groundwater in the area.

Such freshwater lenses are, however, limited in thickness, and have been generally observed to occur down to depths ranging from 20 to 50 metres from the ground-level. Any increase in the pumping of fresh water or the deepening of wells in such areas may lead to the intrusion of saline water from the deeper levels. Electrical resistivity surveys undertaken in the Abohar Sub-Tahsil for the delineation of the zones of fresh and saline water have generally indicated the presence of freshwater lenses of varying thickness resting over saline groundwater in the area. Appreciable, or often abrupt, variations in the thickness of the freshwater columns have been recorded. The thickness of this column has been found to vary, on an average, from two to forty metres, being greatest along the canals, where the interface of fresh and saline water has been invariably pushed down owing to continuous infiltration and owing to canal water. Resistivity surveys have indicated the areas

to the north of the branch of the Abohar Canal appear to have very limited thickness of the layers of fresh water. But the area on the east and south-west of Abohar shows an appreciable thickness of the freshwater column and is found to be favourable to the development of groundwater by shallow tube-wells.

The shallow tube-wells drilled in the areas around Abohar to depths ranging from 9 to 24 metres from the ground-level yield fresh potable water. The yield of the tube-wells varies from 20 to 140 kilolitres of water per hour. The exploitation of groundwater from shallow depths is also done through open wells. Deep tube-wells which have been attempted in this area have invariably yielded brackish to saline water.

Water-table

An analysis of the water-table in the Firozpur District makes an interesting study. Parts of the floodplain of the Satluj are waterlogged, the water-table being within one or two metres from the surface. Thus whereas the parts of the floodplain of the Satluj suffer from waterlogging, most of the other areas of the District have deep water-tables, and the underground water is brackish only at places.

(d) Geology

(i) Geological Formation

The area forms a part of Indo-Gangetic alluvium. It is practically flat except for the occurrence of small scattered sand-dunes. The geological formations identified in the area are : sandy clay with saltpetre encrustations at places, clay with sporadic sandy nodules, coarse sand, a water-bearing sand horizon, and impervious clay. The formations, which have been encountered from a bore-hole drilled for oil, are the middle and upper Shiwaliks (between 195 and 700 metres).

(ii) Mineral Resources

Except saltpetre, other mineral occurrences in the Firozpur District are rather rare. The seepage of natural gas and the occurrences of groundwater have also been reported from this area.

Natural Gas.—The seepage of natural gas has been reported from Zira. The details of the seepage are not known.

Saltpetre.—Saltpetre is essentially a nitrate of potassium and sodium, with minor amounts of chloride, sulphate and carbonate radicals. It occurs as a thin, white encrustation on the surface. The efflorescence appears during the hot months, viz. May and June and even during July in the absence of adequate rains.

The soil, containing this salt, becomes loose and is different from the soil beneath it. Nearly a 2-Centimetre-thick layer is scraped and is loosely stacked in a *kachcha* pond, 50 cm deep. A sufficient amount of water is spread over it and the percolating water takes into solution the salt content of the heaped soil. This solution is then led into a first set of pans and allowed to evaporate there. After a few days, it is transferred to another set of pans where it is kept for another five or six days. From there, it is taken to a third set of pans where the saltpetre crystallizes out. This is known as crude saltpetre. The product is then taken to factories and is subjected to filtration and heating to obtain pure saltpetre.

Saltpetre is used primarily in the production of nitrates and potash which are extracted indigenously from the soil in two different stages. The refined product is used in the manufacture of gunpowder. It is also of some use in enamel and fireworks industries. Potash is used in the manufacturing of soap, matches, explosives and in the glass and ceramic industries.

Firozpur is an important saltpetre-producing district of the Punjab. A majority of the occurrences are confined to the deserted villages lying between the Satluj River and the Firozpur-Fazilka road.

It is difficult to estimate the reserves of saltpetre, because the growth of the deposits is controlled by weather conditions.

(iii) Seismicity

Seismically, the Firozpur District is situated in a region which is liable to slight to moderate damage due to earthquakes. Although no major epicentral track has been located near Firozpur, a number of earthquake shocks, originating in the Hindukush, the Himalayan Boundary fault zone and the Karakoram regions, are occasionally experienced at Firozpur, with slight to moderate intensity.

Some of the prominent earthquakes, felt in the District in the past, occurred on 30 May 1885, 4 April 1905, 28 February 1906, 17 May 1917, 22 June 1945 and 10 July 1947.

From the records, it is seen that the maximum seismic intensity experienced at Firozpur was between VI and VII on the Modified Mercalli Scale-1931⁵ during the Kangra earthquake of 1905. But considering

⁵Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of 1931

its proximity to the Himalayan Boundary fault zone, Firozpur has been placed in zone III of the earthquake-zoning map of India. In this zone, the maximum earthquake intensity may reach VII M.M.

In order that engineering structures at Firozpur may not suffer damage or consequently result in the loss of life owing to earthquakes, the civil engineering structures may be provided with safety factors. For ordinary structures, the following factors have been suggested in the Indian Standard Institutions Code, *Criteria for the Earthquake-Resistant Design of Structures*.

Type of foundations	hard	medium	soft
Earthquake factor	.04 g	.05 g	.06

For important structures, the earthquake factor has to be suitably increased.

I Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of 1931 Scale Specifications

- | | |
|-----|--|
| III | Felt quite noticeably indoors, especially on the upper floors of buildings, but many people do not recognize it as an earthquake. Standing motorcars may rock lightly. Vibrations like passing of lorry. Duration estimated. |
| VI | Felt by all; many frightened and run out doors. Some heavy furniture moved a few instances of fallen plaster or damaged chimneys. Damage slight. |
| VII | Every body runs outdoors. Damage negligible broken in buildings of good design and construction ; slight to moderate in well-built ordinary structures considering in poorly built or badly designed structures ; some chimeneys broken. Noticed by person driving motor-cars. |

(Source : Director-General of Observations, New Delhi)

(e) Flora

The Firozpur District is sparsely wooded. With a progressive increase in the area under cultivation, the scrub type of forest, which covered large tracts in the past, has almost disappeared. The scrub, which originally consisted of a thick growth of *Salvadora oleoides* Dene (van, mal), which yields the berries, known as pilu; *Capparis decidua* (Forsk.) Edgew. (karir or the leafless caper) and *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Wild. ex DC. Subsp. *indica* (Bth.) Brenan (kikar) are now represented by scattered trees of these species, which, however, from the common trees of the District. In the south-west, *Prosopis cineraria* (L.) Druce (Jand) is frequently seen. *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. (shisam or tahli), *Albizia lebbeck* Bth. (siris) are planted alongside the canal banks and roads. Among other trees seen in the District are the neem (*Azadirachta indica* Zucc.) and the Bukain or Persian lilac (*Melia azedarach* L.).

The well-grown trees of *Tamarix aphylla* (L.) Karst. (*pharwan*) are seen along the canals. The earliest plantation of this species through cuttings dates back to 1876—79, according to the old Gazetteer of the District. The species of *Acacia*, viz. *Acacia leucophoea* Wild. (*reru*) and *A. modesta* Wall. (*phulahi*) are also seen. The *ber*, comprising two species of *Zizyphus* viz. *Z. mauritiana* Lamk., and *Z. nummularia* (Burm.f.) W. & A., are widely distributed, the latter, particularly in good soil. Near villages and on the edges of ponds, the *pipal* (*Ficus religiosa* L.) is frequently planted.

The wild date, *pnoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb., is found near Firozpur and Fazilka.

The commonly cultivated fruit-trees of the District are mango, orange, lime, pomegranate and *jamun*. Banana is also grown.

The most widely distributed plant in the District is, perhaps, the *akk* (*Calotropis procera* (Ait.) Ait. It is very common in the poor sandy soil on fallow land and waste places. The plant sometimes attains a considerable size. The stems are used as firewood and also in the construction of huts by the poorer sections of the population. The roots of this plant often harbour a parasite, *Cistanche tuberosa* Wt. (Orobanchaceae), which puts out its fleshy flowering spikes above the ground. The flowers vary in colour from yellow to brownish purple. In the canal-irrigated land and in abandoned fields, there occurs commonly a member of the onion family, viz. *Asphodelus tenuifolius* Ca., which is locally known as *piazi* or *bhugaat*. In the riverain tracts also occurs a plant which is quite conspicuous by its prickly habit. It is the *jowanya* (*Alhagi pseudalhagi* (Bib.) Desv.), a low bushy plant with small reddish flowers. Along the river banks, another species of *Tamarix*, viz. *T. dioica* Roxb., locally known as *pilchhi*, forms a thick scrub and this is used largely as firewood.

The characteristic plant of the uplands is *Aerva tomentosa* (Burm. f.) Juss. (*bui*), with its dense woolly spike, giving a greyish-white appearance to the countryside where it abound ; *Crotalaria burhia* Buch.-Ham ex. Bth., the wild Indian hemp, a wiry plant, with small yellow flowers ; *Farsetia jacquemontii* Hk. & T. (*lathic*), whose growth is indicative of baqd sand, and others. In the sandy soil, the trailing *Citrullus colocynthis* (L.) Cogn. (*tumma*) of the gourd family occurs in profusion. *Ephedra foliata* Boiss. is seen in dry places. An introduced weed, now running wild and often proving to be a nuisance, is a thistle-like spiny plant, with yellow flowers, *Carthamus oxyacanthus* Bieb.

The useful grasses of the District include (*Saccharum bengalense* Retze.=*S. Munja* Roxb.), locally known as *sarr* or *sarkonda*. It is particularly common in the riverain tracts. This grass finds many uses and the *baan* or *munj* fibre extracted from it is twisted into ropes or is used to make chairs and stools (*moorhas*). Its stems are used for making huts and serve as fence poles. The young sprouts are sometimes used as fodder. *Phragmites karka* (Retz.) Trin., a tall reedy grass, forming clumps in marshy places ; (*Erianthus ravennae* (L.) P. Beauv., a tall robust grass ; the *doob* grass, *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) pers. ; *Cenchrus ciliaris* L. (*dhaman*) and the *dabh* or *talla* and *Desmostachya bipinnata* (L.) Stapf., a tufted grass, though useful as a sand-binder, all spread with great rapidity, sometimes proving troublesome. Some other grasses are also found in the District.

The plants of medicinal importance found in the District include *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban (*brahmi*), (*Datura innoxia* Mill. (*dhatura*), *Grewia tenax* (Forsk.) Fiori (*ganger mewa*) ; *Peganum harmala* L. (*harmal*) and *Withania somnifera* (L.) Druce (*asgand* or *aksan*).

(f) Fauna

(i) **Animals.**—The Firozpur District contains but little of big game. The black buck is plentiful in the Bishnoi villages in the Fazilka, and is occasionally found in the areas near about. The *nilgai* is found in field areas of the Fazilka Tahsil and the hog-deer is found along the banks of the River Sutluj. An occasional wolf is brought in for reward. The wild boar abounds in the riverain jungles to the east of Firozpur, especially near Sobraon, but seems to have been exterminated in the west of Firozpur though there are a few of it in the Abohar silting tank and in the municipal reserve at Fazilka. The wild ass and the tiger, which were sometimes found in Fazilka, have long since disappeared. Jackals are common in the riverain tract and in the neighbourhood of towns, but are very rare in the uplands. The fox is found in the sandy parts of the District, whereas the hare is common. The otter is sometimes found along the River and near the large *jheels*. In the River itself, the tortoise is common.

In many parts of the District, the field rats are so common that they have become a veritable plague and cause much damage to the crops. In buildings, the ordinary house rat is common. The mongoose (*neola*) is by no means rare.

(ii) **Birds.**—With respect to bird life the District is much better off. The black partridge is common in the riverain tract, whereas the grey partridge is found in almost all places. In the sandy parts of the

District, sandgrouse, both the imperial and common varieties, are found, the former being especially plentiful in the cold weather. The latter is believed to breed in the District. The great Indian bustard is found on the Bikaner border. In the cold weather, various varieties of duck are to be found on the *jheels* and in the River, whereas large flocks of the *kunj* or demoiselle crane daily wing their way inland from the River to the gram fields where they feed on the *sundi* (caterpillar). The common crane also is by no means rare.

The snipe and jack snipe are scarce. Large flocks of bar-headed geese are to be seen on the River and in the fields in the neighbourhood. The quail is not so plentiful as in some other districts. There are always a few about. Various varieties of plover occur, the commonest being the courier, grey, green, and goggle-eyed plovers; both the ordinary variety and the so-called black variety of curlew are not uncommon. Herons, pelicans, spoonbills, paddybirds, coots, cormorants and debchicks are plentiful in suitable localities, whereas the *sarus* and the black and white stork (*chitror*) are occasionally seen. The common blue pigeon is to be found everywhere, but the green pigeon is rare. At the beginning of the cold weather, large flocks of the eastern stock pigeon visit the District. Doves, crows, sparrows, starlings (*mainas*), and parrots occur in swarms, and the vultures and various varieties of hawks are also plentiful. Ravens are also not uncommon. In the cold weather, large flocks of starlings and the rosy pastor appear.

The following is a list of the game-birds found in the district :

English name	Vernacular name	Latin name	Remarks
Great Indian Bustard	Gurain	<i>Eupodotis</i>	Very rare
Imperial or black-bellied sandgrouse	<i>Bhattitar</i> , <i>kashmira</i> , or <i>palla</i>	<i>Pterocles</i> <i>arenarius</i>	Plentiful in suitable localities
Common sand-grouse	<i>Bhattitar</i>	<i>Pterocolinus</i> <i>exustus</i>	Not uncommon
Black partridge	<i>Kala tittar</i>	<i>Francolinus</i> <i>vulgaris</i>	Common in riverain
Grey partridge	<i>Tittar</i>	<i>Ortygornis</i> <i>pondicerianus</i>	Plentiful

English Name	Vernacular name	Latin name	Remarks
Quail	<i>Bater</i>	<i>Conturnix communis</i>	Not very plentiful
Bar-headed goose	<i>Mag</i>	<i>Anser indicus</i>	Common
Whooper swan	<i>Hans</i>	<i>Cygnus musicus</i>	Occassionally visits the District in exceptionally severe winters.
Ruddy Sheldrake or brahminy duck	<i>Surkhah</i>	<i>Casarca rutila</i>	Common
Whistling teal	<i>Bara silahi</i>	<i>Dendrocygna jayanica</i>	Rare
Mallard	<i>Nilsir, nila</i>	<i>Anas boscas</i>	Common
Spot-billed duck	<i>Murgabi</i>	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Common ; breeds in the District, but sparingly
Gadwall	<i>Bey'khur</i>	<i>Chaullelasmus streperus</i>	Common
Common teal	<i>Sou churka</i> or <i>teal</i>	<i>Nattion crecca</i>	Common
Wigeon	<i>Pearson</i>	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Not common. In fact distinctly rare
Pintail	<i>Shinkhpar</i>	<i>Dafila acuta</i>	Not common
Carganey teal	<i>Chatwa khira</i>	<i>Querquedula circia</i>	Rarely seen, except at the end of the season
White-eye	<i>Burar</i>	<i>Nyroca africana</i>	Common
Shoveller	<i>Tidari</i>	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Fairly common
Marbled duck	<i>Murgabi</i>	<i>Marmoronetta angustirostris</i>	Rare

English name	Vernacular name	Latin name	Remarks
Red-crested pochard	<i>Lal sir</i>	<i>Netta rufina</i> <i>Nyroca berina</i>	Fairly common
Tufted pochard	<i>Dubaru</i>	<i>Fuligula fuligula</i>	Not common
Common crane	<i>Kunj</i>	<i>Grus communis</i>	
Demoiselle crane	<i>Kunj</i>	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	
Indian blue rock pigeon	<i>Kabutar</i>	<i>Columba livia</i> <i>intermedia</i>	Common everywhere
Eastern stock pigeon	<i>Kabutar</i>	<i>Columba every-smanni</i>	Large flocks in cold weather
Green pigeon	<i>Hariyal</i>	<i>Crocosoma phoenicapterus</i>	Rare

(iii) **Reptiles.**—The krait is perhaps the commonest variety of poisonous snakes found in the District. Cobras and a variety of viper (*Echis carinata*) also occur. The *chimba* or *wains* (*Psammenis dia-dema*), though commonly supposed by the people to be poisonous and a hybrid cobra, is really a non-poisonous, though vicious, snake. The small house lizard is common, whereas the *larger goh* or *iguana* is by no means rare.

(iv) **Insects.**—Mosquitoes are plentiful in the irrigated parts of the District, whereas in certain seasons sandflies are a veritable plague. White-ants or termites are very common and do considerable damage in houses, and black and red ants are also plentiful. Locusts sometimes appear in large swarms, especially in the Fazilka Tahsil and a number of grasshoppers also cause damage at times. The *sundi* (caterpillar), the larva of a species of leaf-cutter moth, does a lot of damage to the gram crop and to a less extent to *sarson*. *Tela*, a green aphid, damages the *sarson* crop and, in some years, almost blights it. *Kira*, a sort of borer, in certain seasons, ruins the *jowar* and maize crops.

(v) **Fish.**—The principal kinds of fish found in the Satluj are the *mahser*, *rohu*, and *sowal*. The other kinds observed are : *charanda*, *dhungna*, *dambara*, *jhails*, *malli*, *sohni*, *mohri*, *bachwa*, and *ghogu*, the last being identified as *Callichroas bimaculatus*.

(g) *Climate*(i) **Climatic Divisions and Seasons and Their Durations**

The climate of the Firozpur District is, on the whole, dry and is characterized by a very hot summer, a short rainy season and a bracing winter. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season is from November to March. This is followed by the summer season which lasts up to about the end of June. The period from July to the middle of September constitutes the south-westerly monsoon season. The latter half of September and October may be termed the post-monsoon or the transition period.

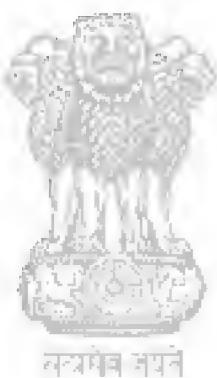
(ii) **Temperature and Humidity**

Temperature.—There is a meteorological observatory in the District at Firozpur. The records of this observatory may be taken to be representative of the meteorological conditions in the District, in general. From about the end of March, the temperature increases rapidly till June which is generally the hottest month, with the mean daily maximum temperature of 41.1°C and the mean daily minimum of 26.3°C . It is intensely hot during the summer, and the dust-laden winds, which blow especially in the sandy parts of the District near Abohar, are very trying. On individual days, the maximum temperature may be above 47°C . With the onset of the monsoon by about the end of June or early in July, there is an appreciable drop in the day temperature. However, owing to frequent breaks in the monsoon in July and sometimes in August, the weather is oppressive because of the increased moisture in the monsoon air. By about the second week of September, when the monsoon withdraws from the District, both day and night temperatures begin to fall. The drop in the night temperature, even in October, is much more than the fall in the day temperature. After October, both the day and night temperatures decrease rapidly till January, which is the coldest month. The mean daily maximum temperature in January is 19.3°C and the mean daily minimum is 5.1°C . In the cold season, the District is affected by cold waves in the wake of the passing westerly disturbances and the minimum temperature occasionally drops to about a degree or two below the freezing-point of water.

The highest maximum temperature recorded at Firozpur was 47.2°C on 31 May 1954. The lowest minimum was -2.9°C on 29 January 1964.

Humidity.--Except during the brief south-westerly monsoon, when the relative humidity in the air varies from 65 to 70 per cent, the atmosphere is generally dry. The driest part of the year is the summer season when the relative humidity in the afternoons is about 30 per cent or less. Generally, the morning is more humid than the afternoon.

Table I gives the normals of temperature and relative humidity during the different months of the year in the Firozpur District.



FIROZPUR

TABLE 1
Normals of Temperature and Relative Humidity at Firozpur

Month	Mean daily maximum minimum temperature		Highest maximum ever recorded**		Lowest minimum ever recorded**		Relative humidity	
	° C	° C	° C	Date	° C	Date	Hours (Indian Standard time)	0830* 1730*
January	19.3	5.1	27.2	23 January 1952	-2.9	29 January 1964	89	55
February	23.4	7.6	33.3	28 February 1953	0.0	7 February 1974	80	43
March	28.2	12.6	37.2	30 March 1955	4.2	1 March 1977	71	45
April	34.8	17.4	45.4	23 April 1979	9.1	3 April 1965	55	31
May	39.5	22.4	47.2	31 May 1954	13.1	4 May 1977	48	28
June	41.1	26.3	46.7	7, 10 June 1979	15.5	1 June 1958	53	31
July	36.6	26.6	45.1	8 July 1957	18.4	4, 5 July 1979	73	56
August	35.3	26.1	40.5	8 August 1979	16.2	21, 29 August 1962	79	65
September	34.6	23.4	40.1	1 September 1979	16.2	30 September 1962	73	56
October	32.9	16.9	39.4	4 October 1952	8.3	29 October 1952	70	46
November	27.5	9.7	35.0	2 November 1951	2.1	30 November 1962	79	50
December	21.9	6.2	28.3	2 December 1953	-1.7	22 December 1950	89	59
Annual	31.3	16.7					72	47

* Hours I. S. T.
**Updated upto 1979

(iii) Rainfall

Records of rainfall in the District are available for 6 stations for periods ranging from 25 to 96 years. The details of the rainfall at these stations and for the District, as a whole, are given in Tables 2 and 3. The average annual rainfall of the District is 340.5 mm. The rainfall in the District, in general, increases from the south-west towards the north-east and varies from 268.5 mm at Abohar to 457.7 mm at Zira. About 70 per cent of the annual normal rainfall in the District is received during the monsoon months of July to September, July and August being the rainiest months. Some rainfall occurs during the pre-monsoon months, mostly in the form of thunder-showers. In the cold season, in association with the passing westerly disturbances, some rainfall occurs. The variation in the annual rainfall from year to year is large. In the 50-year period, 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall, which was 249 per cent of the normal, was recorded in 1908. The lowest annual rainfall, which was only 28 per cent of the normal, was in 1947. In this 50-year period, the annual rainfall in the District was less than 80 per cent of the normal in 16 years. Two consecutive years of rainfall, less than 80 per cent of the normal, occurred three times during this period. Considering the annual rainfall at individual stations, such a low rainfall in two consecutive years is quite common in the District, occurring at all the stations. They have occurred once at Fazilka, two times at Zira, three times, each at the Firozpur City and at Abohar and 4 times, each at Jalalabad and Gobindgarh. Three consecutive years of such low rainfall were recorded once at Zira. Four consecutive years of low rainfall, less than 80 per cent of the normal, have occurred once each at Zira, the Firozpur City, Fazilka and Gobindgarh. Such a low rainfall was recorded for 6 consecutive years during 1934 to 1939 at Fazilka. So low rainfall as 20 per cent of the normal or less has been recorded at Jalalabad in 1947, 1949, and 1921. It will be seen from Table 2 that the annual rainfall in the District was between 200 and 500 mm in 39 years out of 50.

On an average, there are 19 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm or more) in a year in the District. This number varies from 16 at Jalalabad to 26 at Zira.

The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours recorded at any station in the District was 301.7 mm at Zira on 17 September 1950.

(iv) Atmospheric Pressure and Winds

Cloudiness.—Skies are moderately to heavily clouded during the monsoon season and for short spells of a day or two during the cold season

in association with the passing westerly disturbances. During the rest of the year, the skies are mostly clear or lightly clouded.

Winds.—Winds are generally light in the District, and are westerly to north-westerly throughout the year. But in the summer and monsoon seasons, the winds from directions between the north-east and the south-east also blow on many days.

Special Weather Phenomena.—In the cold season, westerly disturbances affect the district, causing occasional dust or thunder-storms, sometimes accompanied with hail and squall. Thunder-storms and more frequently dust-storms occur during the hot season. Rain during the monsoon season is also sometimes accompanied with thunder. Occasional fogs occur in the cold season, particularly in the wake of the passing westerly disturbances.

Tables 4 and 5 give the mean wind speed and the special weather phenomena respectively for Firozpur.



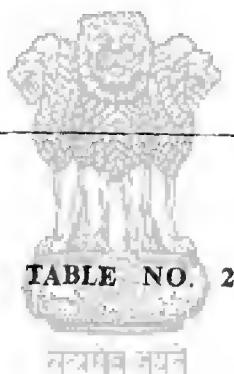


TABLE
Normal and Extremes of Rainfall

Station	Number of years of data	Janu- ary	Febru- ary	March	April	May	June	July	August	Septem- ber	
Zira	.. 50	a b	23·6 2·0	23·1 2·0	19·1 1·5	13·7 1·2	8·1 0·9	29·2 2·3	117·1 6·1	124·2 5·2	74·7 2·8
Firozpur City	50	a b	23·4 1·6	21·8 1·8	20·6 0·9	11·7 0·9	8·9 1·0	34·0 2·0	114·8 4·9	123·4 4·9	51·1 1·9
Fazilka	.. 50	a b	14·5 1·4	12·2 1·3	12·2 1·2	9·7 0·9	6·1 0·8	26·2 1·8	85·3 4·1	73·9 3·9	44·7 2·0
Jalalabad	50	a b	15·7 1·2	13·5 1·3	12·5 1·0	11·7 0·8	5·3 0·6	22·3 1·4	81·0 3·8	81·0 3·6	50·3 1·8
Abohar	.. 40	a b	12·9 1·2	10·9 1·0	6·6 0·8	6·9 0·7	5·3 0·7	26·7 1·7	80·3 4·0	75·9 4·2	33·8 1·7
Gobindgarh	50	a b	12·7 1·2	9·4 1·1	9·7 0·9	6·6 0·7	6·1 0·6	28·5 2·1	80·3 4·4	89·9 4·4	36·8 2·0
Firozpur (District)	a b	17·1 1·4	15·1 1·4	13·5 1·1	10·1 1·9	6·6 0·7	27·8 1·9	93·1 4·5	94·7 4·4	48·6 2·0	

(a) The Normal rainfall in mm

(b) Average number of rainy days (days with rain of
2·5 mm or more)

*Years given in brackets

**Based on all available data up to 1970

2

in the Firozpur District

October	November	December	Annual	Highest annual rainfall as % of the normal	Lowest annual rainfall as % of the normal*	Heaviest rainfall in 24 hours**		
						Amount (mm)	Date	
10·7 0·6	2·3 0·2	11·9 1·0	457·7 26·0	238(1917)	26(1921)	301·7	17 September 1950	
4·8 0·3	2·5 0·2	9·7 0·8	426·7 21·8	204(1908)	26(1947)	275·8	19 June 1894	
3·8 0·4	1·0 0·1	6·1 0·7	295·7 18·6	287(1908)	13(1947)	182·9	31 August 1908	
4·3 0·2	0·5 0·1	6·1 0·6	304·2 16·4	267(1908)	5(1947)	160·0	3 September 1958	
2·8 0·3	1·3 0·1	5·1 0·5	268·5 16·9	230(1917)	22(1947)	175·8	2 September 1958	
3·8 0·3	0·8 0·1	5·8 0·6	290·4 18·4	347(1908)	29(1946)	152·4	23 August 1898	
5·0 0·3	1·4 0·1	7·5 0·7	340·5 19·4	259(1908)	28(1947)	



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Table 3

Frequency of Annual Rainfall in the Firozpur District
(Data for 1901—1950)

Range in mm	Number of years	Range in mm	Number of years	
80—100	..	1	601—700	1
101—200	..	4	701—800	1
201—300	..	15	801—900	1
301—400	..	17	901—1000	..
401—500	..	7	1001—1100	..
501—600	..	3	1101—1200	—

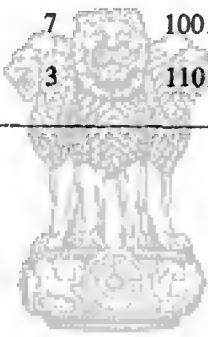


TABLE 4
The Mean Wind Speed in Km/hr.
(Firozpur)

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
1.8	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.2	2.8	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.3	2.4

TABLE 5
Special Weather Phenomena
(Firozpur)

**The mean number of days with	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual
Thunder	..	1.0	0.7	1.5	2.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.8	0.7	0.4	0.1	19.0
Hail	..	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
Dust-storm	..	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.7	1.3	3.0	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.0	7.0
Squall	..	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	1.2
Fog	..	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	1.2

**The number of days being 2 and above are given in whole numbers

CHAPTER II

HISTORY

Early Period

Hardly any district in the Punjab has so little early history attached to it as Firozpur. It is almost entirely destitute of ancient buildings and contains no places mentioned in early records. None of the present villages or towns date from an earlier period than the reign of Akbar, mainly because the entire western side of the District has, within the last four centuries and a half, been over run by the River Satluj, by which all relics of antiquity that might have existed have, of course, been effaced.

Along the top of the upper bank of the Satluj, large mounds of earth and the debris of brick or pottery, called *thehs*, are often found and they mark the sites of the former villages and show that the bank of the River was inhabited in ancient times. A few remains are found in the tracts below the greater bank, the only ones being at Channar and Kabar Bachha in the Firozpur Tahsil ; any others that existed must have been swept away by the River, which has coursed over all the lower countryside during the last two centuries and a half. The most important of these mounds are those of Janer in the Zira Tahsil. A large number of coins have also been found from these *thehs*. A list of the coins found from some of these *thehs* is given in the Appendix on page 58.

Malwa Sikhs.--The tribal amalgamation, which Bhandarkar¹ has observed in the historical development of India, was most pronounced in the population of the Punjab. The Aryans came and mixed with the Austro-Dravidian people of the Punjab. They had some strong Iranian elements, which gave rise to several tribal groupings such as the Madras². The Sikhs of the Firozepur District are still known as Malwa Sikhs, probably because these regions were populated by the Malavas in ancient times. About the beginning of the Christian Era, the Malavas moved to the south and settled in the central and south-eastern Rajputana (Rajastian)³.

At the time of the rise of Poros in the early fourth century B.C., the southern Punjab was dominated by the Kshudrakas and Malavas. Of these, Malavas were identified with the Madras, but they separated early from their parent body, assuming a distinct name. The existence of the Malwa Sikhs in Firozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Jind and Malerkotla shows that they became prominent in these regions also. But the pressure of

¹*Indian Antiquary*, Vol. XL, pp. 1-37

D.R. Bhandarkar, 'Foreign Elements in Hindu Population'

²Buddha Prakash, *Political and Social Movements in Ancient Panjab* (Delhi, 1964) p. 242

³*Ibid.*, p. 111

imperialist movement seems to have pushed them southwards, and, at the time of Poros, they occupied a part of the Doab, formed by the Chenab and the Ravi, and extended up to the confluence of the Chenab and the Indus⁴.

Alexander and the Malavas had a bitter struggle and the account of war is given in the Greek history. According to Greek accounts, the people were brave, warlike and freedom-loving but they were so isolationist and self-contained that they could not organize any effective defence before the Macedonians had pounced on them⁵.

After the retreat of Alexander, the Malavas joined the upsurge that swept off Greek rule from the Punjab and led to the establishment of the Mauryan Empire⁶.

After the dismemberment of the Mauryan Empire, the Greeks of Bactria invaded and occupied the Punjab in the second century B.C. About 145 B.C., Menander became the ruler of the Punjab. Hence it clearly follows that the Greeks conquered the Malavas, and their successors, the Sikhs, also pressed them. Under their pressure, they migrated from the southern Punjab to Rajasthan⁷.

Origin of the Kang Tribe

The members of the Kang Tribe occupied Sogdiana and are remembered as Kankas in Indian works. In the *Mahabharata*, they are mentioned along with Sakas and Thukharas. In the fourth century of the Christian Era, they produced eminent Buddhist scholars, who took an important part in the translation of Buddhist works into Chinese. The most famous among them was Kang Seng-hui (Kanka Sanghabhadra), who founded a strong Buddhist school in southern China. In the fifth century of the Christian Era, they took part in an invasion of India, led by the Kidarite Kushanas. At present, the descendants of these Kankas are the Kangs, spread up to Firozpur and Ambala and found all along the bank of the Satluj and even on the lower Indus⁸.

(b) Medieval Period

Immigration of Rajput Tribes.—About the time of the first Muhammadan conquests of India (A.D. 1000), a colony of Bhatti Rajputs, of whose stock the great tribes of Manj Rajputs, Naipals, and Dogras are the banches, came up from Jaisalmer under a leader, called Rai Hel,

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 157

⁵ Buddha Prakash, *Glimpses of Ancient Panjab* (Panjab, 1966), p. 45

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 46

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 47

⁸ Buddha Prakash, *Political and Social Movements in Ancient Panjab* (Delhi, 1964), p. 246

and settled to the south of the present Town of Muktsar. They overcame the local Punwar Chief and firmly established themselves.

Fifth in descent from Rai Hel were two brothers, Dhumh and Chinn. The Dogars and Naipals are descended from Dhumh. This branch of the tribe turned to the left and lived for a time beyond the Beas near Pakpattan and Dipalpur. The grandson of Chinn was Raja Manj. Mokalsi, the son of Manj, built Faridkot, then called Mokalhar. Mokalsi's sons divided themselves into two families, called after the names of two of them, the Jairsis and Vairsis. Both became Muhammadans about the same time, i.e. about A.D. 1288. The Punwars silently disappeared from the history, and the Manj families advanced northwards to the Beas River. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, they built several towns or villages which are still in existence between Zira and Dharmkot, on what was then the River bank. Kot Isa Khan was built by Nawab Isa Khan of this branch about A.D. 1700.

Meanwhile, the Vairsis fixed their capital after two or three changes at Raikot, now in the Ludhiana District, and ruled the east of the *pargana*. The families acted as the local Governors under the Mughal Suba of Sirhind.

Revenue Realized During Mughal Period.—In the *Ain-i-Akbari*, Firozpur is mentioned as the centre of a large *pargana* attached to the Suba of Multan, and paying a revenue of 1,14,79,404 *dams*, equivalent to Rs 2,86,985. Another *pargana*, mentioned in the same work on Muhammadot, which is probably to be identified with the present-day Mamdot, and would, therefore, fall within the boundary of the present District. The revenue of this *pargana*, as given in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, amounted to 34,92,454 *dams*, equivalent to Rs 87,311.

Fort of Firozpur.—The fort of Firozpur is stated to have been built in the time of Firoz Shah Tughlaq, Sultan of Delhi, from A.D. 1351 to 1388. Nothing more than a mound, surmounted by a Muhammadan tomb, marks its site. The following description is taken from the report of Sir H. Lawrence, who was stationed at Firozpur during the early years of the British occupation.

"Both town and territory of Ferozepore bear every appearance of having been not only long located, but of having been at one time rich and populous. It is true that the fort of Ferozepore is not mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, whereas that of Mamdot is mentioned. The *Ain-i-Akbari* however, cannot (as is pointed out by Captain Lawrence) be considered

a complete statistical return ; while the position, extent, and importance of the *pargana* as above described, give strong grounds for belief that in such times, and commanding then, as now, one of the chief passages over the Sutlej, and being on the highroad between Lahore and Delhi, Firozpur possessed at least a fortress of some kind, and the name and character of Feroze Shah⁹ afford fair grounds for supposing him to have been the founder. But the fact does not rest on any local tradition. The Manj Rajputs say the town was named after their Chief Feroze Khan, who lived in the middle of the sixteenth century. The principal traders were Bhabras. The place was desolated by a pestilence in 1543, and the traders withdrew to Kot Isa Khan. The fact that Ferozepore was not attached to the Suba of Sirhind, but to that of Multan, goes to support the inference that it was at the time of Akbar on the right bank of the Sutluj. From its position, Ferozcpore may have been a mart for the produce of the hills and the rich country between them and Amritsar, but in the track of many of the hordes that ravaged the North-west provinces, the town and territory seem to have suffered even more than the rest of the country bordering on the Sulej."

The Dogars.—During the decay of the Delhi Empire, the country, which had apparently become almost depopulated, was occupied by the Dogars, a clan of Rajput origin, who, being Muslims, migrated to Pakistan on the partition of the country in 1947. The Dogars were a wild and lawless race, owning no permanent habitations, and delighting rather in large herds of cattle than in the more laborious occupations of the soil. Originally, they were alternatively graziers and cattle lifters, but at all times bad cultivators, and holding but loosely the bonds of allegiance. They paid tribute to the rulers set over them according to the means and, when hard pressed, they had little to lose by deserting their dwellings. On such occasions, the Dogars would place their few chattles, their women and children on buffaloes, and fleeing to the tamarisk forests of what formed later on the Bahawalpur territory (now in Pakistan), or into the almost equally inaccessible desert of Abohar, they would defy their pursuers, or take their time for coming to terms. These people, who are Muhammadans and call themselves the converted descendants of the Chauhans of Delhi, migrated to the neighbourhood of Pakpattan, and from there, two centuries ago, spread over a hundred and fifty kilometres along both the banks of the River Satluj, a few kilometres above Firozpur to the borders of the former Bahawalpur State. At one time, they were undoubtedly masters of Manidot and Khai, as well as of Firozpur ; their seats were principally in the *khadir* or the Satluj, and their occupations were pastoral and predatory. The clan is subdivided into many branches, but almost

⁹The foundation of several towns, and among them of Hissar in the country between the Yamuna and Satluj, is attributed to Firoz Shah

all the Firozpur Dogars trace their origin to Bahlol, a Muhammadan Dogar, who must have lived about two and half a centuries ago.

It was gradually that the Dogars moved from about the neighbourhood of Pakpattan and not until about 1740, that they reached Firozpur, which appears at that time to have formed part of a district called the Lakh Jungle and to have been administered by a *saujdar*, having civil and military authority, residing at Kasur, and acting under the Governor of Lahore. A few villages occupied by Bhatis were at that time scattered over the Firozpur plain, but on the coming of the Dogars, the former moved southwards and the Dogars soon established themselves in their room. The right of occupancy of the new possessors was allowed by the Lahore ruler, who, however, on their failing to give security for the payment of government dues, took their children as hostages. Their rebellious spirit, however, soon broke out, and they slew the *saujdar*, Ahmed Khan Lalu ; but in the weak state of viceregal government, they escaped punishment, and for a time remained independent of all authority.

Sukha Mallu, the head of a tribe, as wild as that of the Dogars, and himself a cattle-lifter by profession, was then appointed *saujdar* ; and such was the terror of his name that many of the Dogars absconded, but he enticed them back, and for six years managed the country, after which time the Dogars assembled in rebellion near the Takia of Pir Balawal ; and the *saujdar*, incautiously going among them, unarmed and unattended, was speared by one Phaima, who had long vowed to kill him. The followers of Sukha, who were at hand, hearing of the fate of their leader, fled and the Dogars followed them, plundered the *saujdar's* dwelling and murdered his son, Kutb. Jul Khan was now appointed *saujdar*. Being pressed by the Lahore Government for arrears of revenue, he took refuge among the Dogars and was protected by them. Although the *saujdar* developed intimacy with this troublesome portion of his dependants, he had no sooner arranged his affairs with his superior at Lahore and returned to Kasur than the Dogars commenced the same systematic opposition to his rule that they had carried on against the administration of his predecessors.

Sheikh Shamir, of Ulaki (then called Chanhī), was a violent man, and stirred up his brethren, the Dogars, against Jul Khan. The latter after some opposition, seized 22 of their leaders, but in a short time, after levying a heavy fine on them, he released all except three, Muma, Muhammad and Akbar. Pir Khan, the head of the Village of Dulchi, where the *saujdar* had been received during his temporary disgrace, went several times to Jul Khan and begged of him to release the prisoners. On his refusal to do so, Pir Khan concerted with Sheikh Shamir to seize or slay

the *faujdar*. He again went to Kasur, and enticed their victim to an interview with the rebels on the bank of the Satluj, promising to use influence to effect improved arrangements, and to bring to submission the contumacious Dogars. In the midst of the interview, Sheikh Shamir slew the *faujdar*, and in the scuffle that ensued, he himself was killed by a chance blow from his own brother, Misri. Yusaf Khan, the Naib of Jul Khan, avenged the murder of his master, put the hostages to death by sawing their bodies and hacking them to pieces. The manuscripts do not show who succeeded Jul Khan as *faujdar*, and considering the then disturbed state of the Empire, it is probable the Dogars were left for a time to themselves, for they seem on a failure of having a common enemy, to be up in arms against one another. One party called in a band of Pathans and the other of a band of Mughals to aid them. These auxiliaries formed posts in different villages, received a share of the Hakimi dues, and were neglected or respected according to their strength and character. One of the allies, so called, was Mahmud Khan, son of the late *faujdar* Jul Khan.

(c) Ascendancy of the Sikhs

The ascendancy of the Sikhs dates from 1758, when they defeated Adina Beg, the Mughal Governor of Lahore. Three years later in 1763, the Sikhs, under Hari Singh Bhangi, sacked Kasur and enriched themselves with enormous booty. Many of the refugees from Kasur came over to Firozpur and established the present town. At that time, Tara Singh Gheba, of the Dallewalia Confederacy, a freebooter, who had become one of the Sikh chiefs, began to make incursions into the north of this District from the opposite side of the Satluj. He got the possession of Fatehgarh, and his further progress would be related in the account of that *ilaqa*. Tara Singh's conquest extended as far as Ramunwala and Mari (in the Moga Tahsil of the Faridkot District), at both of which places he built forts. Meanwhile, Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia took possession of the Naipal country, and extended his authority to within a few kilometres of Firozpur. The Nawab of Kot Isa Khan placed himself under the protection of the Ahlualias.

When Hari Singh, the Chief of the Bhangi Misl, seized and plundered Kasur and its neighbourhood in 1763, among the Sardars in his train was Gurja (Gujar) Singh, (whose son Sahib Singh afterwards married the sister of Maha Singh, the father of Ranjit Singh), who, taking his brother Nushaha Singh and his two nephews, Gurbakhsh Singh and Mastan Singh, crossed the Satluj opposite Kasur, and took possession of Firozpur, the fort of which was in ruins ; while Jai Singh Gharia, with another hand

from the same quarters, seized Khai, Wan, and Bazidpur in the neighbourhood of Firozpur, and made them over to their subordinate, as Gurja (Gujar) Singh gave Firozpur to his nephew, Gurbakhsh Singh, son of Nushaha Singh. The Firozpur territory then contained 37 villages, the proceeds of which Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh enjoyed in concret with Burhan Dogar and Muhammad Khan, son of Gul Khan. However, the two latter soon leagued and expelled Gurbakhsh Singh's garrison from the newly repaired fort of Firozpur. The latter then established himself in Sultan Khanwala, where there was a mud fort, and from there still managed to get the third portion of the government share of the Firozpur villages, Burhan Dogar and Suman Dogar, dividing between them a third, and Muhammad Khan receiving the remainder. In 1771, Muhammad Khan started from Amritsar with some horses for sale. On his first encamping-ground, Gurbakhsh Singh attacked and took him prisoner, and then recovered the Fort of Firozpur. Between 1763 and 1771, Gurbakhsh Singh acquired a considerable territory on the right bank of the Satluj ; but in 1771, the same year that he recovered Firozpur, a change in the course of the Satluj left the Sukkar Nala dry, and carried away or rendered waste all the Firozpur villages, but seven. On regaining Firozpur, Gurbakhsh Singh rebuilt the fort ; and leaving his uncle, Raja Singh, as Governor, recrossed the Satluj and employed himself in increasing and securing his possession in the trans-Satluj Punjab and in co-operating with his kinsman and patron, Gurja (Gujar) Singh, in a dispute with whom however, for a partition of their acquisitions, Mastan Singh, the brother of Gurbakhsh Singh, was soon after killed.

Gurbakhsh Singh, who was a native of Asil, near Khem Karan, where his father was originally a *Zamindar*, had four sons and three daughters. The sons soon became troublesome to their father ; Jai Singh, the youngest even commenced operations on his own account and, when forbidden to do so, arrayed himself against his father. Most probably induced by such conduct, Gurbakhsh Singh resolved to divide his estates during his lifetime. The authorities differ as to the dates, but it was about 1792 that the old Sardar divided his possessions among his sons, reserving Singahpura for himself. To his eldest son, Duna Singh, he gave Sattaragarh, Bhedian and Muhalim, north of the Satluj ; to the second, Dhanna Singh, the Fort and the territory of Firozpur ; to the third, Gurmukh Singh, Sahjara, north of the Satluj : and to Jai Singh, Naggar. Sardar Dhanna Singh resided in the Fort of Firozpur and Gurbakhsh Singh and his other sons on their respective allotments beyond the Satluj. But all seem to have kept up friendly communication with one another ; and Dhanna Singh especially appears to have been much at Firozpur and, along with his father, to have afterwards found a refuge there when dispossessed of their respective territories by Niyal Singh Atariwala.

Sardar Dhanna Singh appears to have been unable to match his grasping neighbours, or to restrain his unruly subjects, the Dogars, who almost immediately on his accession invited the inroads of Nizam-ud-Din Khan, the Pathan Chief of Kasur, who accordingly sent troops to Dulchi. Dhanna Singh, being unable to resist them, entered into a compromise, and yielded to the Pathan half of the Dogar villages that had been spared by the last irruption of the Satluj. The arrangement by no means pleased the Dogars, who immediately called in the Rai of Raikot to their assistance. The Rai's force lay for some weeks, if not for months, under the walls of the Fort and in 1839, Sir H. Lawrence picked out one iron six-pound shot and several wooden plugs that appear to have been driven into the southern wall with a view to effecting a breach. But for those days, the Fort was strong and was relieved in time by Sardar Rai Singh, of Buria, the father-in-law of Sardar Dhanna Singh. He also expelled the Kasur Pathans from their portion of the seven villages but on Rai Singh's retirement Nizam-ud-Din returned and regained his footing. In 1807, Maharaja Ranjit Singh, having acquired Kasur, made it over in *jagir* to his favourite and co-adjutor, Sardar Nihal Singh Atariwala, who soon dispossessed Gurbakhsh Singh and his three sons of their trans-Satluj possessions in the neighbourhood of Kasur. The Dogars, who were looking for a change, invited Nihal Singh's approach to Firozpur. He gladly acquiesced, and, crossing the River, dislodged Dhanna Singh's garrison from the Village and *Kot* of Dulchi.

About the same time, another branch of the Dogar Clan, the Ullakis, settled at Bareki. Having applied for aid against their Chief to Moran, a celebrated courtesan at the Court of Lahore, she asked the Maharaja for a grant of Firozpur, and without a shadow of right in the matter, he granted her request. Backed by the power of Ranjit Singh, Moran sent troops to enforce her claim, and seized the Village of Bareki. Dhanna Singh, being thus pressed, was offered assistance by his enemy Nihal Singh, and in his extremity accepted it. Uniting their troops, they expelled Moran's garrison from Bareki, but had no sooner done so than Nihal Singh made an attempt on the Fort of Firozpur, the garrison of which, however, resisted him.

In 1808, Sardar Nihal Singh again crossed the Satluj in the train of Ranjit Singh, who, notwithstanding the remonstrances of Mr. Metcalfe, the British Agent, insisted on endeavouring to extend his dominions to the east of the Satluj, and by stratagem, he effected the lodgment of a garrison in the Fort of Khai, a stronghold for the time, nearly 10 km south-west of Firozpur, and then belonging to Nazam-ud-Din Khan. Thus occupying Dulchi on the north, Bareki on the west, and Khai on the south-west,

he hemmed in the Firozpurias and shared the produce of their land equally with Sardar Dhanna Singh, who, from the weakness of his character, was quite unable to cope with such a stirring leader. Dhanna Singh was, therefore, delighted to hear at this time that the British Government had taken on itself the protection of all the country south of the Satluj, on which point he was no sooner informed than he addressed Sir D. Ochterlony, the Agent for Sikh Affairs, and, in a letter, dated 28 March 1809, begged to be admitted under the Company's protection in the same manner as was his relative Bhagwan Singh of Buria and Jagadhri. A favourable answer was returned, and, by order of the Government, a copy of the proclamation of Seven Articles was sent to him, showing that the British Government guaranteed the status of 1808 as it obtained previously to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's irruption. In 1811, the Lahore Government deputed an agent to wait on Sir D. Ochterlony, one of the objects of the mission being to obtain sanction for seizing Dhanna Singh's land south of the Satluj. Sir D. Ochterlony, however, disclaimed the right, stating that Firozpur had neither been originally given to Ranjit Singh nor had been conquered by him, and that whatever portion of his territory Dhanna Singh still retained on the adoption of Mr. Metcalfe's treaty, to that he was fully entitled by the British guarantee. The Government concurred with Sir D. Ochterlony, and from that time until the late Sardar's death, no claim on the territory was made by the Lahore Ruler.

In 1819, Sardar Dhanna Singh died, leaving his widow Lachhman Kaur, the daughter of Rai Singh, of Buria and Jagadhri, heiress of his possessions. In 1820, the Sardarni having placed her father-in-law, the old Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh, in charge of the territory, proceeded on a pilgrimage to the shrines of Haridwar, Gaya and Jagannath, but during her absence, her husband's nephew, Bhagel Singh, son of Duna Singh, gained admittance to the fort under pretence of visiting his grandfather, Gurbakhsh Singh, and, being supported in the usurpation by Sardar Nihal Singh, they too administered and shared the profits of the territory in concert. Bhagel Singh was in the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and, "in all probability, had made the raid with his consent, if not assistance"¹⁰.

In 1823, Sardarni Lachhman Kaur returned from her pilgrimage, and appealed to the British authorities against the usurpation by Bhagel Singh. Captain Ross, the Deputy Superintendent of Sikh Affairs, represented her case to the Lahore Agent and the Maharaja immediately

¹⁰Lepel Griffin, *The Law of Inheritance to Chieftainships as Observed by the Sikhs Previous to the Annexation of the Punjab* (Lahore, 1869), para 59

recalled his vassal, Bhagel Singh, and allowed that Firozpur belonged rightfully to the Sardarni as the separated share of her husband given to him during the life of Gurbakhsh Singh:

The old Sardar Gurbakhsh Singh, died at a very advanced age in Firozpur in 1823 and Bhagel Singh died in the Punjab in 1826. Sardarni, Lachhman Kaur died in December 1835; still in possession of Firozpur although both Ranjit Singh and the British Government, knowing its value as a military position, had tried to effect an exchange with the widow for other territory elsewhere. As Lachhman Kaur left no children, the estate lapsed to the British Government. However, in July 1838, Chanda Singh and Jhanda Singh, the two brothers of Bhagel Singh, preferred their claim to inherit the state to Sir George Russel Clerk at the Ambala Agency. The question was referred for determination to the Supreme Government, but was decided against the claimants.¹¹

(d) British Rule

I. Formation of the District

First Introduction of British Rule.—The importance of the position of Firozepur had been pointed out to his Government by Captains Ross and Murray; and, during the life of Sardarni Lachhman Kaur, her often-expressed wish to exchange her turbulent territory for a more peaceful one in the neighbourhood of her kinsman of Buria had been explained to the British authorities as offering a good opportunity for taking up a commanding position opposite to, and within 64 km of Lahore. But an aversion to enlarge the British boundary, or to alarm the Lahore Darbar, deterred the Government from accepting the Sardarni's offer, though it was at the same time notified to the local officers that on no pretext Maharaja Ranjit Singh was to be permitted to obtain possession of Firozpur.

Early in 1836, Lieutenant Mackeson was deputed by Captain Wade to Firozpur and Lahore to ascertain the limits of the late Sardarni's territory and to adjust new British relations with the Maharaja. Lieutenant Mackeson soon ascertained that the only undisputed portion of the property was the City and its suburbs, with the town-land, stretching scarcely a kilometre and a half in any direction. The cultivators of the land lived under the walls of the Fort, and did not even enjoy the fruits of their scanty land without the cover of mud or brick towers, one or more

¹¹*Ibid.*, para 60

of which protected every well, serving as watch-towers against invaders and as places of refuge against small predatory bands. Giving up the right of co-partnership in the remote villages, and retaining the entire possession of those within a well-defined limit, Lieutenant Mackeson, in communication with the Lahore authorities, settled the boundary of the territory, leaving to it an undisputed area of 222.74 sq km, divided among 40 villages. So admirably was this delicate task executed that no complaint against that officer or any of his measures was heard of. The local duties were then placed under a confidential agent of Captain Wade, named Sher Ali Khan, who endeavoured to reclaim the people from their lawless habits, and made two or three new locations. Sher Ali Khan died in 1837, and was succeeded by Pir Ibrahim Khan, a man of good family and of considerable reputation in the country, as having been long the Prime Minister of the Khan of Mamdot. Under Pir Ibrahim, some few other locations were made and old wells were repaired. A commencement was also made of clearing away the ruins of the ancient town and laying out new and broader streets. Pir Ibrahim Khan was relieved by W.M. Edgeworth in December 1838, when, owing to the increased importance of the place, it was resolved to make Firozpur the station of an Assistant Political Agent. Edgeworth's whole time was occupied by the many duties entailed on him by the presence of the Army of the Indus, until in January 1839, he was relieved by Sir H. Lawrence.

Considerable progress had been already made in the pacification of the newly acquired territory when the First Anglo-Sikh War broke out in December 1845. Of that war, this District was the battlefield. The Sikhs crossed the Satluj opposite Firozpur on 12 and 13 December 1845. The battles of Mudki (18 December 1845), Ferozeshah (21 December 1845), Aliwala (28 January 1846) and Sobraon Obelisk (10 February 1846) followed, and the Sikhs against withdrew beyond the River, pursued by the British force, which soon afterwards dictated peace under the walls of Lahore.

By the result of the war, the British Government acquired Khairudin and all the remaining Lahore territory on the east of the Satluj. The Ahluwalia Chief was for the disaffection deprived of all dominions south of the River. Kot Kapura was given to the Faridkot Chief partly as a reward for assistance rendered to the British Army and partly in exchange for the *pargana* Sultan Khanwala a piece of his territory which lay inconveniently across the British line of communications.

History of *Ilaqas* Subsequently Added to the District.—A short account is here subjoined of each of the *ilaqas* which was subsequently added to the Firozpur territory.

Khai

Khai (Tahsil Firozpur) formed part of the Dogar territory. It was, no doubt originally included in the old *pargana* of Firozpur but was entirely a wasteland when the Dogars took possession of it. The origin of the name is not known. It was the designation of a *theh* or deserted site near which one of the Dogar chiefs located the present Village of Khai. From this *theh*, a sufficient number of bricks were subsequently dug up to make ten miles of road. From so much building material, some idea of the extent of these remains may be formed. When Gurja (Gujar) Singh acquired Firozpur, Jai Singh, another Sikh chief, took possession of Khai, but was compelled to give way to Nizam-ud-Din, the Pathan Chief of Kasur, whose rise to power will be described in the account of Mamdot. In 1804, Ranjit Singh dispossessed Nazam-ud-Din and gave the *ilaqa* in *jagir* to his favourite, Sardar Nihal Singh, Atariwala. It was afterwards transferred to Sardar Dharm Singh on condition of his furnishing a contingent of fifty horsemen. In 1843, it was incorporated into the Lahore Demesne.

Mallanwala

The *ilaqa* of Mallanwala (Tahsil Zira) was also part of the Dogar territory. The village of Mallanwala Khas was located by a Dogar chief, named Malla. On the irruption of the Sikhs, about 1760, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia took possession of it, together with the surrounding villages, which since that time had been known as a separate *ilaqa*. The Ahluwalia family retained possession of this *ilaqa* with the exception of a few villages which were taken from them by Ranjit Singh, until the Satluj Campaign (1845-46), when in consequence of the hostile part taken by them, their estates were confiscated by the British.

Baghuwala

The *ilaqa* of Baghuwala (Tahsil Firozpur), with the exception of a few villages in the bed of the Satluj River, was originally included in Mallanwala, but was occupied by Desa Singh Majithia, who first seized upon the village of Baghuwala, where he built a small fort. Assisted by Ranjit Singh, he afterwards took possession of several of the adjoining villages subject to the Ahluwalia Chief, and thus formed the present *ilaqa*. Desa Singh was succeeded by his son, Lehna Singh, who kept possession of the *ilaqa* till it was confiscated after the Satluj Campaign of 1845-46.

Makhu

The *ilaqa* of Makhu (Tahsil Zira) was occupied about 150 years ago by the Naipals, a Mussalman tribe, resembling the Dogars, who came originally from Sirsa (Haryana). There is no trace of any former inhabitants, and it was probably an entire waste. The Naipals were originally subjects of the Empire ; then became virtually independent till Jassa Singh, the Ahluwalia Chief, took possession, and by establishing a *thana* at Makhu, created the *ilaqa* known by that name. His successors held it in *jagir* till the Satluj Campaign of 1945-46, when it was confiscated.

Zira

The neighbourhood of Zira (the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name), in which there are many deserted sites, had been for many years a waste, when in 1808 Sayad Ahmad Shah came from Gugera and founded Zira Khas. He was driven out by the Sikh Chief Mohar Singh, Nishanwalia, during whose rule nearly all the villages of this *ilaqa* were located. Mohar Singh was, in turn driven out by Diwan Mohkam Chand, Ranjit Singh's General, and the *ilaqa* was added to the Lahore Demense. It was afterwards divided into two portions, of which the eastern portion, which preserved the name, Zira, was made over to Sarbuland Khan, a servant of the Lahore Government, and the western portion, to which the name, *ilaqa* Ambarhar, was given was made an appenage of Kanwar Sher Singh, son of the Punjab sovereign. At a later date, Sher Singh obtained the possession of the whole *ilaqa* and abolished the subdivision of Ambarhar.

Kot Isa Khan

The territory included in the *ilaqas* of Kot Isa Khan, Dharmkot and Fatehgarh (Tahsil Zira) is said to have formerly belonged to the Rajputs of Punwar Tribe. Their ruler resided at Janer, which is said to have been founded by one Raja Jan. The present village of Janer stands at the foot of a mound, one of several mounds, composed of bricks and earth, the remains of an ancient city, which cover about 60 acres (24.28 hectares). This place used to be the most extensive deserted site in the District. It is worth mentioning that the affixer or 'mer' occurs in the name of almost no other village in the District. In the language of Rajputana it signifies a hill or mound, and occurs frequently, as, for instance, in Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Amber, The Punwars were supplanted by the Manj Rajputs.

Net Ahmad Khan, son of Shadi Khan, of that family, who proceeded to the Court of Akbar, gained there great favour by a feat of strength, stringing a bow sent by the king of Persia, which had defeated the efforts of all others at the Court. The Emperor conferred on him the title of Nawab, and, in due course, he succeeded to the possession of the *tappa* of Shadiwal, which had been conferred upon his father, the limits of which seem to have been the same as the *ilaqa* of Kot Isa Khan. About 1740, one of his descendants, Nawab Isa Khan, after whom the *ilaqa* was named, resisted the imperial authority, which sent a force to subdue him. He displayed prodigies of valour, but the force subdued and killed him. Notwithstanding his rebellion, his son, Muse Khan, was permitted to succeed him. His son, Kadir Bakhsh Khan, was de-spoiled by the Ahluwalia Family, which took possession of the *ilaqa*.

Dharmkot

Tara Singh Dallewalia invaded and conquered this *ilaqa* in 1760 and, after building a fort at Kutbpur, changed its name to Dharmkot (Tahsil Zira). His son, Jhanda Singh, was compelled to yield to Diwan Mohkam Chand, and the *ilaqa* was added to the royal demesne.

Fatehgarh

This tract (in Tahsil Firozpur) was also included in the possessions of Tara Singh, who made over the greater portion of it to his cousin, Kaur Singh. It was added, under Diwan Mohkam Chand, to the Lahore Demesne.

Sultan Khanwala

The Sultan Khanwala *ilaqa* (Tahsil Firozpur) was so called from the principal village in it, which was founded by Sultan Khan, a native of Mallanwala. It was a dismal waste when Pahar Singh, the ruler of Faridkot, took possession of it. It was transferred to the Firozpur District from Faridkot in 1847 in exchange for a portion of Kot Kapura.

Guru Har Sahai

This place was a waste tract between the territories occupied by the Barars and Dogars, who were constantly quarrelling over its possession. About two centuries ago, one Jiwan Mal came and pitched his tent upon this waste. He was a Sodhi, seventh in descent from the celebrated Guru Ram Das. He had been driven from his home at Mohammadpur, near Chunian, in the Lahore District (now in Pakistan), by the Kardar who represented Ahmad Shah's Government. No doubt he had made himself obnoxious by showing fanaticism towards the religion. The Dogar

Chief, Sultan, gave him protection and encouragement to remain in the place, believing that his presence would in a measure stop the incursions of the Barars, and put an end to the disputes between the tribes. The Barars also favoured him, knowing him to be a priest of their own religion. He was, therefore, permitted to establish a number of villages in the plain, and he fixed his boundaries by marking down the tracks of his horse's hooves as he made a long circuit one morning along the boundary of the land he fancied. He named the *ilaga* Guru Har Sahai after his eldest son, who eventually took his father's place as the head of the family. Jiwan Mal appears to have made friends later on with Ahmad Shah, because he was allowed to hold his land free of revenue, and the grant was renewed by Ranjit Singh when the Muhammadans authority disappeared from this part of the Punjab.¹²

The religious influence of the family was very great throughout the region of Mahraja Ranjit Singh, and many of the Sodhis of Guru Har Sahai were employed at the court of Lahore, and they accompanied the army on expeditions along the frontier, when it was necessary to keep up the enthusiasm of the men at a high pitch. In making these journeys, they seized the opportunity of bringing the followers under their own religious banner from among the scattered Hindu family of the western Punjab, and up to the historic Partition of the country in 1947, continued to be revered by a large numbers of the Sikhs, not only in their immediate neighbourhood but also in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Kohat and the Derajat. On the death of Guru Gulab Singh in 1869, only two-thirds of the *jagir* was continued to his successor, Fateh Singh, on a life-tenure. It was unfortunate that he became involved in quarrels with his own son, and in his time much of the old influence of the family melted away. He was, moreover, on bad terms with Bishan Singh, his eldest son, and to despise him, made a gift of his property and Guruship to his younger son, Katul Singh. A law-suit followed, and that Guru Bishan Singh was successful, but the expenses of litigation seriously crippled the property. On the death of Fateh Singh, in 1879, the *jagir* was temporarily resumed, and if was re-granted to Guru Bishan Singh in 1885 under a *sanad* from the supreme Government.¹³

Both Guru Gulab Singh and Guru Fateh Singh exercised magisterial powers within the limits of their *jagirs* but these privileges were not continued to Guru Bishan Singh, who in 1896 was declared, at his own request,

¹²Griffin, L.H., *Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab* (Lahore, 1940), Vol. I, pp. 234-36

¹³*Ibid.*

unfit to manage his estates, which were placed under the Court of Wards. The expenses incurred by the Guru in his case against his brother, Kabul Singh, amounted to about one lakh of rupees, and these and other debts were later cleared off and many improvements were effected, so that in 1909, the income from the estate was over Rs 50,000 a year. The family then owned nearly 25,000 acres in nine villages in the Muktsar Tahsil. The Guru was a Provincial Darbari. He died in 1910 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Jaswant Singh. He had given away to his brother Autar Singh half of the property, except the *abadi* land, for his lifetime and the two brothers jointly gifted a village to Hira Singh, the son of their sister in perpetuity.¹⁴

As head of the family, Guru Jaswant Singh continued to be the guardian of the sacred book and of the rosary which originally belonged to Guru Nanak Dev. These objects, which are said to have been lost recently, were held in high reverence by the people who travelled long distances for the privilege of seeing them.

Mamdot

Muhammadot, which is undoubtedly the present Mamdot (Tahsil Firozpur), is mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari* as one of the six *parganas* subordinate to the *Suba* of Multan. Its revenue was estimated at 3,94,452 *dams*, equivalent to Rs. 87,311. This *ilaga* formed the south-west portion of the Firozpur District, and extended for about 64 km along the left bank of the Satluj, having an average breadth of not more than 13 or 14 km. Its area, according to the survey made by Captain Stephen in 1850, was 960.89 sq. km. (371 sq. miles). In this *ilaga*, as in the other *ilagas* included in the Firozpur District, there are evident traces that it was at one time much better peopled and cultivated than at present. The country had, however, become an entire waste when the Dogars, with the consent of the imperial authorities, took possession of it, about 1750. During the decline of the empire, the Dogars here, as at Firozpur, made themselves independent on the flight of the Lahore Governor, Kabuli Mal, in 1764. They were for a time subjected by Sardar Sobha Singh, a Sikh chief, who then rose to temporary power. The Dogars, however called in the assistance of the Rai of Raikot, who sent a body of troops, and, after dispersing the followers of Sobha Singh, himself assumed the government. But the Dogars were no better contented with the rule of the Rai than with that of the Sikh chief, and soon after, with the assistance of his two brothers, Nizam-ud-Din and Kutb-ud-Din, who had made themselves supreme at

¹⁴Ibid

Kasur (now in Pakistan), expelled the Rai, and would probably soon after have expelled their new rulers, had not the establishment of the British power over the cis-Satluj States confirmed the incumbents and prevented the recurrence of the violent expulsions of former times.

The brothers, Nizam-ud-Din and Kutb-ud-Din, were Hassanzai Pathans, and are said to have been formerly in the service of the Emperor of Delhi. They afterwards settled at Kasur, and, followed by a band of their fellow-countrymen, took to plundering the country, until, in course of time, they were able to establish their supremacy in the whole of the Kasur territory and beyond the Satluj in Mamdot. They then divided the land, Nizam-ud-Din fixing his residence at Kasur, and Kutb-ud-Din at Khodian. Nizam-ud-Din was murdered shortly afterwards, and Kutb-ud-Din established his undivided authority over the whole state. He was soon, however compelled to give way to the growing power of Ranit Singh, who took Kasur from him, but gave him in lieu of it the *jagir* of Maruf in the Gugera District, and allowed him to retain Mamdot on the condition that he would provide 100 horsemen for service. The Maruf contingent was also fixed at 100 horsemen. Nizam-ud-Din left a son, named Fateh Din, a minor, at the time of his murder. On coming of age, Fateh Din appealed to the Maharaja against the usurpation, of his estate by his uncle. The Maharaja put him in possession of Maruf, and ordered Kutb-ud-Din to retire across the Satluj and fix his residence at Mamdot. Shortly afterwards, Fateh Din, secretly encouraged, it is said, by the Maharaja, crossed the Satluj to attack his uncle, and with the assistance of the Dogars, who were as usual, ever ready for a change, drove out Kutb-ud-Din and took possession of Mamdot. Kutb-ud-Din died soon afterwards from the wounds received in the conflict with his nephew. His son Jamal-ud-Din, however, appealed to the Maharaja, who recalled Fateh Din and installed Jamal-ud-Din at Mamdot. A few years later, Fateh Din made another attempt on Mamdot, but the Agent of the British Government interfered, and he was, in consequence, a second time recalled by the Maharaja. Fateh Din continued, however, to press his claim, and the title to Mamdot was not formally decided till the Satluj Campaign of 1845-46, when Shah Nawaz Khan, son of Fateh Din, was killed at Ferozeshah, fighting on the side of the Sikhs. Jamal-ud-Din, on the other hand, allied himself with the British and did good service, in reward for which he received the title of Nawab, and was allowed to retain sovereign powers in the State, his contingent being at the same time reduced from 100 to 50 horsemen. The Nawab always entertained the greatest animosity towards the Dogars on account of their former opposition to his father and himself and gradually dispossessed most of the powerful families of their lands and drove them

out of the country. The Dogars, unable any longer to call in some foreign chief to their assistance, petitioned the Commissioner of Ambala and an enquiry was instituted, in the course of which a series of most atrocious acts were brought to light against the Nawab and his two sons. Some cases of actual murder were also, it is believed, proved against the family. After a prolonged and careful inquiry, Nawab Jamal-ud-Din was deposed and his estates were attached to the Firozpur District. Two-thirds of the revenue was granted for the support of the family and one-third was appropriated to the State. Jamal-ud-Din died in 1863. His brother, Jalal-ud-Din, who succeeded him, died in 1975, and was succeeded by his son, Nizam-ud-Din Khan, who attained his majority in 1883. He died in 1891 and was succeeded by his infant son, Ghulam Kutb-ud-Din (born in 1889). During the young Nawab's minority, the estate came for the second time under the Court of Wards; and remained so until August 1934. The Nawab was mentally infirm and could not manage affairs. He died issueless in March 1928, and the *jagir* as well as other properties passed to Shah Nawaz Khan, the eldest grandson of Nawab Jamal-ud-Din Khan, with the hereditary title of Nawab, the law of primogeniture being established.

Nawab Sir Shah Nawaz Khan was one of the biggest *jagirdars* and land-owners in the then Punjab Province and held a seat in the Darbar from the Firozpur District. He was knighted in 1939.¹⁵ On the partition of the country in 1947, he migrated to Pakistan.

Fazilka

In 1800, this tract was almost uninhabited. There was no village where Fazilka (the headquarters of the tahsil of the same name) now stands. The riverside country was occupied only by 12 villages of Bodlas, Wattus and Chishtis, who had come over from the other side of the River a few years before. It was left for a long time to the Nawabs of Bahawalpur and Mamdot, who established some small forts. Their common boundary was ill-defined, but was approximately the same as afterwards became the boundary between the *parganas* of Wattu and Bahak. In 1844, the *pargana* of Wattu, so called from the principal tribe inhabiting it, and, comprising a strip of land running down from the Danda to the Satluj, was ceded by the Nawab of Bahawalpur in exchange for a similar tract given to him on the Sindh frontier, and was attached to Bhattiana. This strip was acquired partly to permit the extension of the customs line to the River, and partly that a political officer might be stationed there

¹⁵ Griffin, L.H. *Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab* (Lahore, 1940), Vol. I, pp. 229-33

to watch the surrounding foreign States of Lahore, Faridkot, Mamdot and Bahawalpur. In 1858, the *pargana* of Bahak, on the Satluj, lately confiscated from the Nawab of Mamdot, was transferred from the Firozpur District to the Sirsa District. It had been settled by Brandreth in 1857-58 before its transfer. The Fazilka Tahsil was divided in the first Regular Settlement of the Sirsa District, into four *parganas*, viz. (1) Malaut including 129 villages (consisting of the southern portion of the Tahsil, the chief village of which was Malaut, resumed from the Sikh Chief in 1837) (2) Mahajani including 45 villages (consisting of the tract immediately south-east of the Danda or old bank of the Satluj, resumed from the Sikh chiefs in 1837); (3) Wattuan including 80 villages (lying north-west of the Danda, down to the Satluj, ceded by the Nawab of Bahawalpur in 1844); and (4) Bahak including 39 villages (also between the Danda and the Satluj above the *pargana* of Wattuan).¹⁶

Gradual Formation of the District.—At the close of the Satluj Campaign in 1846, were added to the existing District of Firozpur, as already described, the *ilaqa* of Khai, Baghuwala, Ambarhar, Zira, and Mudki, together with portions of the following : Kot Kapura (District Faridkot), Guru Har Sahai, Jhumba (District Bathinda), Kot Bhai (Tahsil Muktsar transferred to the District of Faridkot), Bhuco (District Bathinda) and Maharaj (District Bathinda). The other acquisitions of the British Government were divided between the districts of Badhni and Ludhiana. In 1847, the Badhni District was broken up, and the following *ilaqas* were added to the Firozpur District : Mallanwala, Makhu, Dharmkot, Kot Isa Khan, Badhni (Tahsil Moga, transferred to District Faridkot), Chuhar Chak (Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot), Mari (District Bathinda), and Sada Singhwala (Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot). In the same year, Sultan Khanwala was taken from the Faridkot State in exchange for a portion of Kot Kapura. The next addition took place in 1852, when a portion of the *ilaqa* as of Muktsar and Kot Kapura (now transferred to the District of Faridkot), hitherto held in excess of his jagir in the same *ilaqas* by the Raja of Faridkot, was taken under direct management. This was an addition of about 259 sq. km.

In 1855, the eight villages constituting the *ilaqa* of Chirak (in Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot) were restored to the Sardar of Kalsia, as the supposition under which they had been brought under the British control that they were shared equally between the Kalsia State and Sardar Dewa Singh, a British subject, was found to be incorrect. In 1856, the estates

¹⁶Wilson, J. *Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa district in the Punjab 1879-83* Calcutta, 1884)

of the deposed Nawab of Mamdot were annexed, as has already been related. In 1857, nine villages of the Makhu *ilaqa* were ceded to the Kapurthala State on account of river action, the deep stream having shifted so as to separate them from the Firozpur bank. Subsequently, the stream resumed its old course, but it had meanwhile been ruled that the deep stream rule did not affect the boundary in question, and Kapurthala, accordingly, retained the villages. In 1858, the Village of Sibian, one of those granted in exchange to the Faridkot State, was taken back on the ground that it was held as a revenue free life-grant by Sodhi Gulab Singh. In November 1884, on the partition of the Sirsa District, the western half, including the whole of the Fazilka Tahsil and about 40 villages of the Dabwali Tahsil, was included in the Firozpur District, the eastern half being attached to the Hissar District (Haryana).

Development of the District.—The station of Firozpur in 1839, when as yet neither the Punjab nor Sindh had been annexed, was a species of ultima Thule, the farthest limits of the British Indian possessions. It was described as a dreary and desert plain, where very little rain was ever known to fall and an almost continual dust-storm was the normal condition of the atmosphere. The rich cultivation, assigned by tradition to the period of Muhammadan Empire, and still evidenced by numerous deserted sites of villages and wells, had long since disappeared. There were a few scattered patches of cultivation; but great wastes covered with low brushwood were the usual characteristics both of the Firozpur territory and of the neighbouring country. From the first, however, the humanizing influence of security for person and property began to tell upon country and people alike. Cultivation was extended, trees were planted and no effort was spared to replace the former misrule by an era of quiet and contentment.

The immediate effect of a settled government established in close proximity to a border, such as that of the Sikhs, is well illustrated in the country immediately around Firozpur. In 1841, Sir H. Lawrence ascertained the population of the town and territory of Firozpur (inclusive of the cantonment and military bazars), by a careful enumeration, to be 16,890.

Lord Ellenborough, however, refused to develop the place as he considered it "a position in the air",¹⁷ and the building of barracks, which had commenced, was stopped.

Ten years later, in 1851, Brandreth found the population of the same tract to be 27,357, showing an increase of 10,967, at the rate of 64 per cent.

¹⁷Rait, R.S., *Life and Campaigns of Viscount Hugh Gough*, Vol. I, p. 367

Chiefships of Dharm Singhwala.—For an account of the historical chiefships of Dharm Singhwala (Tahsil Zira), refer to L.H. Griffin, *Chiefs and Families of Note in the Punjab* (Lahore, 1940), Vol. I, pp. 240—46.

II. The Great Uprising of 1857

Events at Firozpur.¹⁸—At a court of inquiry assembled some time previous to the Delhi Revolt, a native officer of the 57th Native Infantry at Firozpur declared that it was the purpose of his regiment to refuse the Enfield cartridge if preferred to them. This point raised a strong feeling of suspicion against the Corps, but the 45th Native Infantry, which was not on good terms with the 57th, and had openly declared their contempt of the resolution of the 57th, was considered staunch. On 14 May 1857, as soon as the news by express from Lahore of the Delhi disaster reached Brigadier Innes, who had the previous day taken command, he ordered the entrenched arsenal to be immediately garrisoned by part of Her Majesty's 61st Foot and the Artillery. All ladies were also removed thither, and the two regiments of Native Infantry were ordered into camp in positions of about three miles (5 km) apart. The way of the 45th Native Infantry lay past the entrenchment. As they approached, their column insensibly swerved towards the glacis; the movement had barely been observed when they swarmed up the slope and attacked the position. The Europeans in an instant divined their intent, and rushed to the ramparts with their bayonets. The attack was repulsed; but before the 61st could lead, the sepoys dashed for the gate, whence they were also flung back, and then with an air of injured innocence, they re-formed their column and marched quietly along with their European officers to the camp. During the night, the church, the Roman Catholic Chapel, the school-house, 17 officers' houses and other buildings were burnt to the ground by the men of the 45th, but not before the Chaplain, the Reverend R.B. Maltby, failing to obtain a guard of Europeans, had rushed unattended through the infuriated sepoys into the blazing church, and had succeeded in rescuing the registers out of it. On 14th May, the treasure was moved into the entrenchment, and it was discovered that of the 45th Regiment, there remained only 133 men ; the rest, with a large part of the 57th, had deserted. The remaining portions of these regiments were subsequently disbanded.

Danger threatened the British authorities in this district from both north and south. To avert the impending incursion of the rebel troops from Lahore, the large ferries on the Satluj were guarded and the boats from the small ones were sent to Harike. To check the approaches of the

¹⁸Punjab Government Records, *Mutiny Reports*, Vol. VIII. Pt. I, pp. 47—57, Pt. II, pp. 208—10, 331

wild tribes from Sirsa and Bhattiana, General Van Cortlandt, in a fortnight, raised a levy of 500 Sikhs—a force which, subsequently uniting with the troops of Raja Jawahir Singh and other bodies, sent down from time to time by the Chief Commissioner, rose to 5,000 men of all arms, and performed service in Sirsa and Hissar. Major Marsden received information at one time that a *fakir*, named Sham Dass, was collecting followers with a hostile intent. He promptly moved against the rebel, and coming upon him by surprise, attacked and completely defeated him and killed several of his men. Sham Dass himself was seized and executed. In the western division, 157 extra men were entertained in the police establishment, and the feudatory chiefs furnished a body of 200 horse and 40 foot. Every highway robber was executed at once. On 11th July, the 10th Light Cavalry was, as a precautionary measure, dismounted and disarmed, but on 19th August, the men made a rush at their horses, cut loose about 50 of them, and seizing every pony or horse they could find in the station, including many officer's chargers, mounted and rode off for Delhi. With the connivance of the native horse-keepers of the Artillery, they also attacked the guns, but were repulsed, though not until they had killed three of 61st Regiment and wounded three, of whom one was a female. They also cut down Nelson, the Veterinary Surgeon of their Regiment. Of the 142 rebels captured, 40 were executed and the remainder, with 25 of the Artillery horse-keepers, were transported or imprisoned. In the jail, 18 persons, including the Nawab of Rania, who had been captured by Ricketts in the Ludhiana District, were hanged. The siege train was despatched from the arsenal on 18 August, and more than 2,000 cart-loads of munitions of war were sent to Delhi during the siege.

Events at Fazilka.¹⁹—Oliver, Assistant Superintendent of Bhattiana, was in charge of the Fazilka outpost, which he had held since 1848, and had acquired great influence over the people. The troops stationed there were a small detachment of the 57th Native Infantry and some irregular Cavalry. When a feeling of dissatisfaction appeared among the troops at Firozepur, the Fazilka detachment showed some inclination to break-out. The customs establishment collected at Fazilka from the outposts were bidding their opportunity, willing at any moment to join the disaffected troops, and loudly called for arrears of their pay. Oliver, though uncertain regarding the feelings of the population, called in the most influential headmen, chiefly Bodlas and Wattus of the Satluj, and with their aid was able to disarm the guard of the 57th Native Infantry. Through their influence, the neighbouring population was prevented from

¹⁹Wilson, J. *Report on Settlement of Sirsa District, 1883*

rising and the number of matchlock men they collected and entertained in the service of the British Government overawed the customs peons and other disaffected parties, and with their assistance Oliver was enabled to protect the Town of Fazilka, and to punish and destroy large villages which were in open rebellion a few days after the first outbreak. General Van Cortlandt crossed the Satluj with some police and local levies from Gugera and marched towards Sirsa with Captain Robertson, the Superintendent, who joined him at Malaut on 12th June. Order was then restored in the remainder of the District. Oliver tactfully kept down the excited feelings of the people and restrained them from rising again, although they were constantly incited to do so by emissaries from 'Haryana' and although the troops at his disposal were few and the loyalty of some of them at that time was very doubtful.

III. The Struggle for Freedom

Namdhari Movement, 1872.—With headquarters at the Village of Bhaini Arayian (popularly called Bhaini Sahib) in the Ludhiana District, the Namdhari Movement, or more popularly called the Kuka Movement, led by Guru Ram Singh (born there in February 1816), got momentum in 1872. It was, however, ruthlessly stamped out by the British, consequent upon the blowing up of 60 persons with guns at Malerkotla on 17 and 18 January 1872, with the arrest of influential members and with the deportation of their leader to Rangoon and later on to Mergui, where he died in 1885. The Movement had its impact also in the Firozpur District and it is briefly described below :

In the early fifties, Guru Ram Singh left for Firozpur to help his cousin, Khazan Singh, his maternal uncle Hari Singh's son, to supervise the repairing of the Fort and some other buildings there. During his stay at Firozepur, he made a deep impact on all those who came into contact with him. *Satguru Bilas* (the life Story of Satguru Ram Singh) gives a graphic account of his efforts. It tells²⁰ "All had a common mess. The Holy Book (*Granth Sahib*) was always kept open and it was recited non-stop. There were both morning and evening services. The *Asa di Var* was a regular morning feature which was attended by all. In the evening, there was a community hymn-singing programme conducted to the accompaniment of musical instruments. Guru Ram Singh had his bath in the ambrosial hours of the morning.....He himself recited the "*Asa di Var*"..recited the "*Rahiras*" in the evening and then the "*Arti Sohila*"

²⁰Nahar; Singh, *Namdhari Itihas*, Pt. I, p. 109 (quoted by Fauja Singh Bajwa in *Kuka Movement*, pp. 7-8)

and then the "Ardas" (the Sikh prayer to God) and then would go to bed". The life of prayer and meditation gave rise to certain legends that are still current in that locality. One of them is that when he would be absorbed in divine meditation early in the morning, a bright light could be seen surrounding his holy head.²¹

Guru Ram Singh launched a crusade for religious and social reform and revival. He showed the keenest interest in reaching out to the people to deliver his message personally to them. This practice, he thought, would impart a great momentum to the missionary activities of his *subas* and other functionaries. He, therefore, chalked out a programme of extensive tours through the length and breadth of the country. In this programme, visits to important shrines on the occasions of Baisakhi, Dewali, Maghi and Holi were given the topmost priority, as it was believed that the huge assemblies of people usually found at these places on such occasions would provide him with the much-desired opportunities of direct contact and communication with the masses.²²

Guru Ram Singh started this programme in 1861 and, after visiting other places, he proceeded towards Muktsar to be present there on the occasion of the Maghi Fair. From Muktsar he returned to his headquarters at Bhaini. About the middle of 1863, he again visited the Firozpur District. Conscious of the prevailing poverty of the masses, he initiated the *Anand* Marriage (the ceremony according to Sikh rites) which could be performed at a nominal cost of a few rupees. It was readily accepted by the poor villagers who constituted the bulk of his followers. This new practice was first introduced among the people in the first week of June 1863, at the Village of Khota (Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot), where the daughter and grand daughter of Sammund Singh, a Kuka Suba, were married according to this simple ceremony. Once initiated, the practice became so popular that later on in 1909, it was given a statutory recognition by the passage of the Anand Marriage Act. One important, but incidental, result of the change effected was the breakdown of the professional Brahmin marriage-maker's monopoly in so far as the reformed Kuka fraternity was concerned.²³

The rigours of the caste-system were anathema to Guru Ram Singh. He refused to have any regard for the artificial caste barriers. His mission was for all castes and all religions. Inter-caste marriages were considered

²¹Fauja Singh Bajwa, *Kuka Movement* (Delhi, 1965), pp. 7-8

²²Ibid. pp. 34-35

²³Ibid., p. 30 and M.M. Ahluwalia, *Kukas* (Bombay, 1965), pp. 40, 49--51

an essential factor in the emotional integration of society. A beginning in the direction was also made at Khota in 1863, when a few such matrimonial alliances were effected. In one case, the daughter of a carpenter was married to a member of an Arora family.²⁴

The visit to the village of Khota was the end of the first round of Guru Ram Singh's tours, because it was here that the Government, alarmed by certain reports regarding his aims and activities, took him in custody preparatory to his internment later at Bhaini Sahib.²⁵

The rapid advancement of the Kuka Movement caused consternation to those whose interests lay in keeping the people benighted and stuck up in the web of complicated rites, ceremonies, customs and practices. Prominent among these people were the Sodhis, Bedis and the other priestly classes, Brahmins and *mahants*. They were the reputed leaders of society. Their leadership was now put in jeopardy by the very deep impact made by the Movement started by Guru Ram Singh on the minds of the people. Therefore wherever the Guru went, he received stiff resistance from the members of these classes. The *pujaris* or *mahants* also very often subjected the Kuka leader as well as his followers to humiliating treatment. In 1861, on the occasion of the Maghi Festival, the priests of the Muktsar Gurudwara refused to pray for Guru Ram Singh, unless he agreed, by way of penalty for his "un-Sikh" ways, to pay the entire cost of the maasonry for the local tank. In 1863, during his stay at Khota, the local Brahmins threatened self-immolation as a protest against his innovation of *Anand Marriage*. When this threat proved to be of no avail, they coaxed the local *chowkidar* to make a report to the Police-station of Bagha Purana that the Kukas were indulging in seditious talks. The report lodged was to the effect²⁶ that "For two or three days Ram Singh with 400 or 500 followers had assembled at his village and was behaving in a very extraordinary manner. They talked sedition ; said the country would soon be theirs and they would speedily have 1,25,000 armed men to back them ; that they would only take a fifth of the land's produce from the cultivators". This report was the immediate cause of the arrest of Guru Ram Singh. It was verified and confirmed independently by a police sergeant of Bagha Purana and an Assistant Superintendent of Police, Firozpur. Both of them visited Khota and the neighbouring villages and recorded statements of the prominent people there. A report was then prepared by Lieutenant Hamilton, Superintendent of Police, Firozpur, and sent to the Punjab Government. Without any loss of time, orders were issued to Thomas, the Deputy Commissioner of the District, to go personally to Khota, con-

²⁴Fauja Singh Bajwa, *Kuka Movement* (Delhi, 1965), pp. 30-31

²⁵Ibid. p. 35

²⁶Nahar Singh, *Gooroo Ram Singh and the Kuka Sikhs—Documents 1863—1871* p. 3

vince himself of the case and take Ram Singh in custody forthwith, if necessary. After carefully scrutinizing the whole matter, the Deputy Commissioner banned all meetings of the Kukas in the Firozpur District and ordered that "Ram Singh himself and his *Chelas* (disciples) were to be sent, station by station, to his home at Bhaini, in Ludhiana".²⁷

The Khota affair created a great stir in the official circles. A clear indication of it may be found in the report of Major McAndrew, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Lahore Circle, dated 7. June 1863. Soon after, the Punjab Government issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of all districts to keep a vigilant eye on Ram Singh and his followers and to send confidential reports. The policy of strict vigilance having been, thus, introduced, all Kuka parties and meetings were carefully shadowed by the police and their secret agents.²⁸

Immediately after the happenings connected with the Kuka outbreak in January 1872, Ram Singh was detained in the Allahabad Fort, from where he was soon after removed to Rangoon. His prominent and influential *subas* were also arrested and detained in the Allahabad Fort, also known as the Allahabad Central Jail. Among them those from the Firozpur District were Jawahar Singh and Maluk Singh. After sometime, the former was removed to Moulmein and the latter to the Asirgarh Fort. The *subas* were next to the head of the organization in importance. The vacancies caused by the incarceration of the eminent among them were, therefore, filled up by the appointment of new *subas* in their places. Thus Sammund Singh of the Village of Khota and Natha Singh of the Village of Gadriwala (Tahsil Zira) were appointed in the Firozpur District.²⁹

In 1867, a police officer, deputed to keep a watch on the activities of the Kukas, reported that, among other places, Firozpur had become a stronghold of the Kukas.³⁰

On 18 July 1879, J.P. Warburton, District Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana arrested Narain Singh, of the Village of Roda (Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot). He had been deputed by a notable Kuka leader, Budh Singh, to contact Guru Ram Singh in exile at Rangoon, and he had just returned after paying him a visit. Original letters from Guru Ram Singh, covering 18 or 19 pieces of paper, large and small, bearing on different subjects, mainly anti-British activities, were found to be in his possession.³¹

²⁷Ibid
and Fauja Singh Bajwa, *Kuka Movement* (Delhi, 1965), p. 43.

²⁸Fauja Singh Bajwa, *Kuka Movement* (Delhi, 1965), pp. 42, 44.

²⁹Ibid., pp. 117—19, 139.

³⁰M. M. Ahluwalia, *Kukas* (Bombay, 1965), pp. 64—66.

³¹M. M. Ahluwalia, *Kukas* (Bombay, 1965), pp. 142—146.

On 17 March 1881, the police arrested 39 out of 150 Kukas who had assembled for the purpose of holding a secret meeting in the Dhak jungle near the Village of Laton, not far from Bhaini, in the Ludhiana District. Among those arrested, the following belonged to the Firozpur District :

- (1) Natha Singh Suba
- (2) Sohel Singh
- (3) Rattan Singh
- (4) Sapuran Singh
- (5) Gulab Singh
- (6) Anup Singh
- (7) Dharmo w/o Anup Singh
- (8) Tara Singh
- (9) Chattar Singh
- (10) Lal Singh
- (11) Bholi w/o Lal Singh
- (12) Wazir Singh
- (13) Sunder Kaur w/o Wazir Singh

The arrested persons were released on bail. Many of them were required to furnish security of Rs 1000 each.

Out of 22 Kuka *subas*, the following functioned in the then Firozpur region.²²

Narain Singh son of Dewa Singh, of the Village of Roda (Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot)

Narain Singh functioned in the Muktsar and Firozpur region. In June 1879, he started for Rangoon and, on his return, was arrested on 17th July. Several letters purporting to be from Guru Ram Singh were found on his person. Probably, he was created *suba* by the order of Guru Ram Singh (from exile).

Jawahir Singh, of the Village of Balaspur (Tahsil Moga, District Faridkot)

Jawahir Singh functioned in Firozpur and some adjoining places. He was deported along with Guru Ram Singh in 1872.

Sammund Singh son of Sadha Singh, of the Village of Khota

Sammund Singh functioned in the Firozpur region. Guru Ram Singh renewed his title of *suba* from exile. He assisted the Kuka Sect from his own resources and was looked up to by the Kukas.

²²Ibid., pp. 190—230

Maluk Singh

Maluk Singh functioned in the Firozpur region. He became a Kuka in 1864, and after two years was made a *suba*. In 1869, a band of some 50 Kukas, having collected their goods and cash kept them in a place at Maluk Singh's village, proceeded to Thiraj, a village on the borders of the then Sirsa District, and there declared the beginning of the Khalsa rule. Two British officers, with a party of police, apprehended Maluk Singh and other Kukas.

The above-mentioned prominent Kukas sacrificed their properties, or gave up their settled lives or were arrested by the Government, or were called upon to furnish heavy securities ; all for their faith and mission. Some lost their jobs, others auctioned all their assets to feed their Kuka brethren and to plunge whole-heartedly into the Movement, whereas some were deported from India.³³

Agitation against the Colonization of Government Land (Punjab) Bill, 1906-07.—The Colonization of Government Lands (Punjab) Bill, which was introduced in the Punjab Legislative Council on 16 October 1906 and passed by it on 28 February, 1907, was very much opposed by the people, including the affected soldiers. During the agitation carried on against it, meetings were held in different parts of the Province to protest against it. One such meeting at Firozpur is said to have been attended, among others, by some 300 serving soldiers from the local cantonment. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, particularly the resentment among the troops, the Governor-General of India, Lord Minto, refused his assent to the bill on 26 May 1907. Popular agitation in India, thus, won its first victory.³⁴

The Ghadar Movement, 1913—15.—The humiliating and discriminatory treatment meted out to the Indian emigrants abroad, especially in the USA, produced in them a strong urge to free their mother-country. This urge led to the formation of the Ghadar Party, with its headquarters at San Francisco (USA), in 1913, to liberate India by force.

The outbreak of the World War I, 1914—18, offered these revolutionaries a favourable opportunity to achieve their object. The Ghadar Party sent revolutionaries back to the mother-country to stir up rebellion there. The Government of India were fully informed of these activities and took necessary precautions. Nevertheless, a large number of

³³*Ibid.*

³⁴Sri Ram Sharma, *Punjab in Ferment* (New Delhi, 1971), pp. 50, 56, 78 and 139

revolutionaries sneaked through enquiries under the Ingress Ordinance (of 5 September 1914) and contacted the local revolutionary leaders.

Most important of all was the work in the Army. It was planned to overthrow the British Rule by infecting the India Army with the idea of revolt. The Army was already seething with discontent. The soldiers hated the idea of going abroad to strange lands to die at the bidding of the British Government. Let the banner of revolt be raised by a band of determined revolutionaries, they argued, and thousands would flock to it. The revolutionaries, took full advantage of this state of affairs and secretly contacted the soldiers. The Indian garrisons at Firozpur, Rawalpindi and Lahore (now in Pakistan) promised to revolt. The date of uprising fixed was 21 February 1915 and it was to begin in the cantonments of the Punjab and spread eastwards.

Unfortunately, when the entire plan was ready, the secret leaked out. A spy, Kirpal Singh sneaked into the Ghadar Party and informed the police of the projected rising. The Government took measures to nip it in the bud. Truckloads of white soldiers poured into the major cities of the Punjab. Together with police, they posted themselves at key points. In cantonments, too, the British soldiers took over the arsenals, the watch was increased and the military discipline was enforced more rigorously.

The revolutionaries made a last-minute effort to revolt on 19 February. But the opportunity was irretrievably lost. The secret was out again. When early on the morning of 19 February, Kartar Singh Sarabha, with this band of 50 revolutionaries, reached Firozpur, not all his eloquence could rouse the soldiers out of the torpor of despair into which they had sunk. They merely pointed to the white soldiers stiffly parading in the distance ; others only wept.

Thus all seemed lost. The dream cherished for years came to nothing. For a moment, tears stood in the eyes of even the young Sarabha, the fearless warrior, who had never known defeat and frustration.

Now the real manhunt began. For the next two weeks, terror held the Punjab in its grip. Most of the revolutionaries were arrested. Under the Defence of India Act, Special Tribunals were set up for trying the revolutionaries. One such Tribunal was set up in the Punjab and, on 27 March 1915, the first Lahore Conspiracy Trial opened in the Central Jail, Lahore.³⁵

³⁵Randhir Singh, *The Gadar Heroes*, pp. 15—22

Thus ended the efforts of the simple, and in most cases uneducated, people entirely in the foreign surroundings to contribute their little bit to the fight for the freedom of their motherland. At a time, when the leaders of the Indian National Movement were talking of "Self-government on the British Dominion model." The heroes of the Ghadar Movement had dared to raise the banner of complete independence through armed revolt against imperialism. It had been the most powerful revolt planned since the Great Uprising of 1857. The Firozpur District came to occupy an honourable place in this phase of the freedom struggle.

Zira Bomb Case, 1930.--The high-handedness of the British rulers in suppressing the rising tide of the freedom movement in the country with the worst type of governmental barbarity produced its reaction in the growth and spread of revolutionary activity to avenge the wrongs done to the people. One such incident in the Firozpur District was the Zira Bomb Case of October 1930.

The hero of this case, Gurdas Ram, son of Shri Hari Chand, was born on 14 July 1914 in an Aggarwal family of eminent Hakims of Zira. He was related to the great national leader Lala Lajpat Rai. As a young boy at school, Gurdas Ram was very active and popular and attracted the attention of his teachers for his outspoken views. During the Swadeshi Movement of 1924-25, he would, along with his associates, collect from door to door clothes made of foreign cloth and make a bonfire of them. He was too fearless to be dissuaded by his parents from anti-British activities. At the age of 14, Gurdas Ram, in response to the call of Mahatma Gandhi for non-cooperation, gave up his studies and pasted posters on the walls of his native town against the high-handedness of the British rulers.

The death of Lala Lajpat Rai, caused by the reckless lathi-charge of the police on the historic boycott procession against the Simon Commission on its visit to Lahore in 1928, generated great resentment all over the country. In the entire history of our national struggle for freedom, extending over several decades, there was no event concerning the fate of one person which evoked so much mass indignation as the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. Exposing as it did the beastiality of the imperial power, the tragedy stirred up the youth of the country deeply. An agonized cry came from the wife of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das of Bengal : "Does the youth and manhood of the country still exist ? I, a woman of the land, demand a clear answer to this." Thus, cut to the quick, like the great martyrs Sardar Bhagat Singh and his comrades, the young Gurdas Ram of Zira, also resolved to avenge this national humiliation and seek retribution for the brutal act by the cult of bombs. He formed a revolutionary

party at Zira and secretly learnt the art of manufacturing bombs from Shri Lal Chand, Vice-President of the Congress Committee, Zira, and from Krishan Bharti who visited the town in the guise of a monk. On 31 October 1930, at 8.30 at night. Gurdas Ram, then only 16 years, along with his associates, threw a bomb at the police Station, Zira. The party was subsequently arrested and the famous trial of Zira Bomb Case formed the leading news of those days.

A Special Tribunal was appointed under Act IV of 1930 to try Gurdas Ram (16 years) and his associates, viz. Puran Singh (17 years), Hans Raj (19 years), Gurmukh Singh (30 years) and Lal Chand (44 years). Gurdas Ram, the hero of the case, had the courage of his conviction and boldly declared his intentions. The case was tried in the Central Jail, Lahore, and lasted for six months. Ultimately, on 1 April 1931, Gurdas Ram along with Puran Singh, was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment. However, being political prisoners, they were provided with B Class jail facilities. When, from later police secrets, it became known that Gurdas Ram was connected with Sardar Bhagat Singh's revolutionary party, all special facilities were withdrawn and he became the special target of the jail authorities. He was insulted, beaten and tortured. He was made to grind flour for months together. Moreover, he was fed on diet unfit for human consumption and, as a protest against it, he went on hunger strike. All this adversely affected his health and he fell ill. Nevertheless, he was made to serve his full term of imprisonment. When released, he was a physical wreck. The best possible medical aid, which he was given, was of no avail and he died on 27 May 1934. His death anniversary is celebrated every year at Zira with great enthusiasm.³⁶

The heroism and the burning patriotism of such martyrs were, henceforth, to serve as a beacon for the youth of the country for all times to come. It was not the result of an impulsive reaction on the part of a handful of angry young men. In its broad and true perspective, their supreme sacrifice was in the nature of repayment of the debt which the youth of India felt they owed to a leader whose only passion in life was to make them feel conscious and proud of their national heritage and, eventually, to prepare them to redeem their national honour and glory.

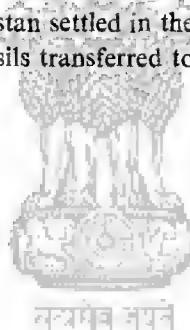
³⁶Narendra Beri, *Suaneh Hayat Shahid Gurdas Ram* (Zira, 1964); Hans Raj Aggarwal, *Shahid Shri Gurdas Ram* (Zira, 1964); *The Daily Pratap, Jalandhar*, 15 August 1962; *The Daily Hind, Samachar Jalandhar*, 27 May 1964; *The Daily Prudip, Jalandhar*, 27 May 1964; *The Daily Milap, Jalandhar*, 27 May 1964; *Paigham-i-Sehat*, Vol. IX, Nos. 5—7, August—October, 1961, Vol. X, Nos. 1—3, April—June 1962 (Published from Zira)

(e) Independence and After

Exodus and its Aftermath

The partitioning of the Punjab between India and Pakistan gave rise to the exodus of the non-muslims from the western Punjab and that of Muslims from the eastern Punjab. Soon after the announcement of the boundary award in mid-August 1947, the trickle of uprooted persons developed into a spate and they started pouring in and going out in an unending stream.

A large number of refugees from the Bahawalpur State and from Montgomery and Lahore districts entered India through the border along the Firozpur District. The refugees from the Bahawalpur State entered from the Fazilka and Abohar side whereas those from the Montgomery District, mostly belonging to the rural areas, entered from the Fazilka side. Those from the Lahore District, mostly belonging to the rural areas, entered from the Firozpur and Jalandhar side. According to the 1951 Census, 3,49,767 refugees from Pakistan settled in the Firozpur District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils transferred to the Faridkot District).



APPENDIX

(Vide page 26)

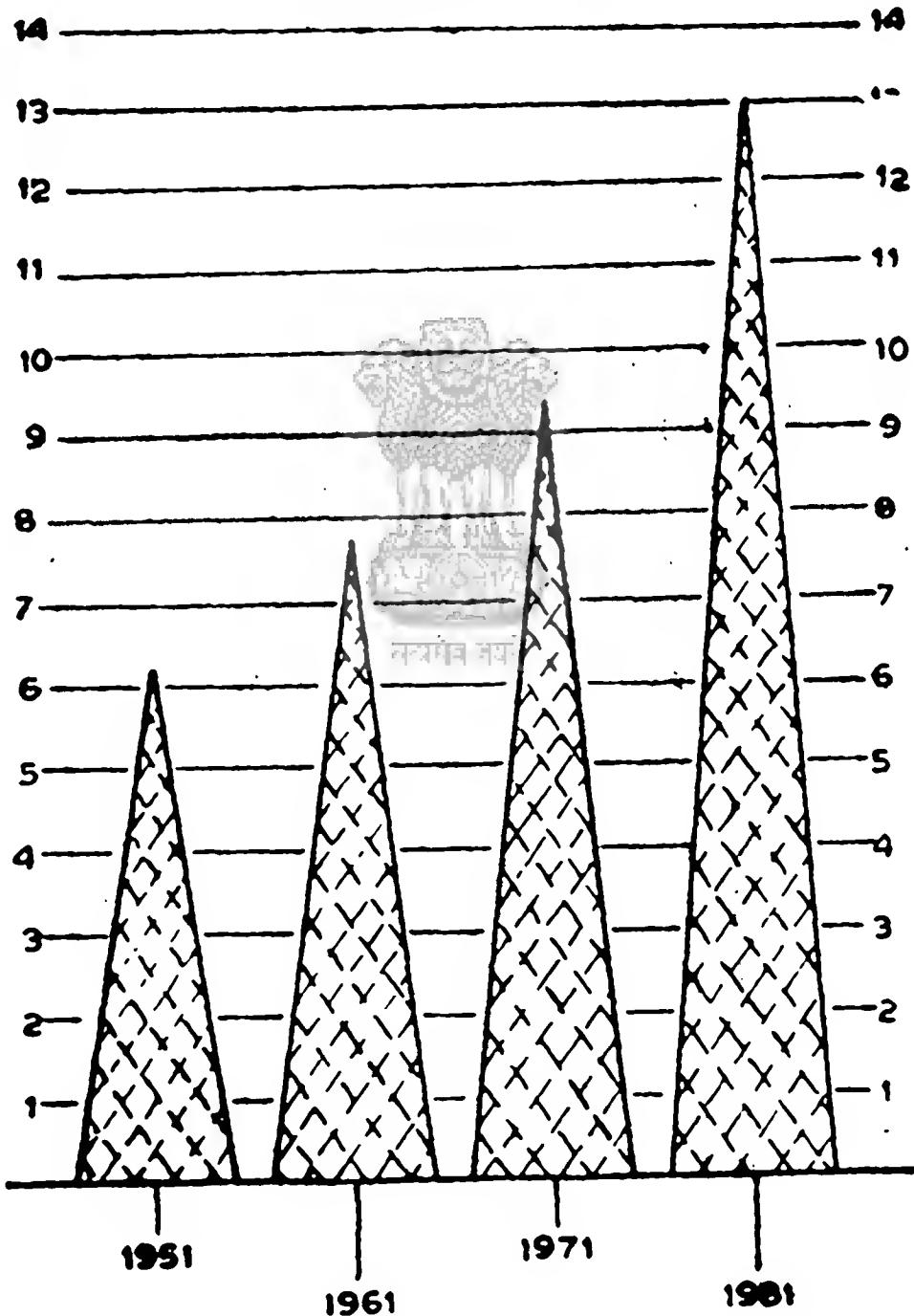
List of Coins found at various sites in the Firozpur District

Tabsil	Site	Coins
Firozpur	.. Channar	A brass tankah (forced currency) of Muham-mad-Bin-Tughlaq, struck at Delhi.
Fazilka	.. Abohar	'Bull and horseman' coins (kings of Ohind about A.D. 1000), one of Prithvi Raj, one of Ala-ud-Din Muhammad Shah of Delhi, coins of the Delhi Sultans (Muhammad-Bin-Sam, Shamas-ud-Din Altutmish, Balban, Jalal-ud-Din Firoz, Ala-ud-Din Muhammad, Muham-mad-Bin-Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq).
Zira	.. Janer	Some coins were found, but the se could not be obtained for identification.



GROWTH OF POPULATION FIROZPUR DISTRICT 1951-1981

FIGURES IN LAKHS



CHAPTER III

PEOPLE

(a) Population

(i) Total Population

According to the 1981 Census, the population of the Firozpur District was 13,07,804 (comprising 6,94,280 males and 6,13,524 females). Of these, 10,09,733 persons were rural and 2,98,071 urban.

Growth of Population.—The population of the District increased from 9,23,931 in 1931 to 13,07,804 in 1981. The variation in the population during these eighty years is shown in the following table :

Year	Persons	Decade variation	Percentage decade variation	Males	Females	
1901	..	9,23,931	..	5,05,914	4,18,017	
1911	..	9,27,434	+ 3,503	+ 0·38	5,20,798	4,06,636
1921	..	10,58,728	+ 1,31,294	+ 14·16	5,88,303	4,70,425
1931	..	11,14,178	+ 55,450	+ 5·24	6,13,258	5,00,920
1941*	..	13,70,811	+ 2,56,633	+ 23·03	7,52,723	6,18,088
1951	..	7,20,511	..	..	..
1961	..	8,79,599	+ 1,59,088	+ 22·08	..	..
1971	..	10,44,936	+ 1,65,337	+ 18·80	5,57,266	4,87,670
1981	..	13,07,804	+ 2,62,868	+ 25·16	6,94,280	6,13,524

(Census of India 1971, Series 17 Punjab, Part II-A, General Population Tables, P. 71, Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1980, P. 37, and Director, Census Operations, Punjab)

The decennium 1901—11 was marked by severe ravages of plague and malaria, which took a heavy toll of the population. During 1911—21 occurred the great influenza epidemic, but the Firozpur District does not seem to have been affected by it. The decade 1921—31 was generally healthy, but the Firozpur District had several epidemics of plague and cholera. The population expanded fast during 1931—41. The decade 1941—51 bore the brunt of the holocaust of unprecedented communal trouble and mass migration of Muslim population to Pakistan

*The population figures up to 1941 relate to the composite District of Firozpur (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972).

in the wake of the partition in 1947. The years 1951—61 were free from disease and the health measures taken by Government considerably reduced the death rate, whereas the birth rate remained almost unchanged.

Emigration and Immigration.—Out of 16,19,116 persons enumerated in the District* in 1961, as many as 8,33,831 persons or 51·5 per cent were born at the place of enumeration. Among the rural population, this percentage works out at 53.8 and in the urban areas at 42.2, denoting a higher degree of mobility in the towns of the District.

Another interesting feature is the difference between the two sexes in this respect. Among the males, as many as 60 per cent were born at the places where they were enumerated against 41.5 per cent in the case of the females. The low figure with respect to the females results from their leaving the ancestral places on marriage.

Another 16.7 per cent of the population was born at other places within the District. This percentage is 10.6 in the case of the males and as high as 23.9 in the case of the females, because of the facts of marriage. Persons born in the Punjab districts, other than Firozpur, numbered 1,80,225 or 11.1 per cent of the population. Even in this group, the percentage for the females is higher than that for the males.

The Punjab-born persons formed 79.3 per cent of the population of the District. The remaining 20·7 per cent came from areas shown below :

Place of birth	Number	Percentage to the total population
Other States of India	..	51,684 3·2
Pakistan	..	277,677 17·1
Other countries	..	2,557 0·2
Information not available	..	2,730 0·2

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District, pp. 30, 256-57)

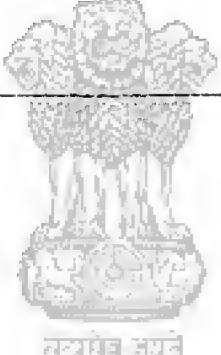
*The above data included those pertaining to the Moga and Muktsar tahsils which were transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972,

Persons born in other Indian States were mostly from Rajasthan (26,562), Uttar Pradesh (14,958) and Delhi (1,968). Persons from Rajasthan were counted mostly in the rural areas but from the other States, they were enumerated mostly in the towns.

The persons born in western Punjab were those who migrated in the wake of the partition of the country in 1947. The persons reported to have been born elsewhere were mostly children of the Punjabis who in their youth had gone abroad and had now come back or had sent their children home.

The particulars regarding the persons who migrated from the District to other places in the country or went abroad are not available.

Density of Population.—The following table shows the density of population in the District from 1881 to 1981 :

Year		Density of population per sq. km.
1881		.. 71
1891		.. 84
1901		.. 91
1911		.. 91
1921		.. 104
1931		.. 109
1941		.. 134
1951		.. 125
1961		.. 161
1971		.. 176
1981		.. 223*

(Census of India, 1951, Vol. VIII, Punjab, Pepsu, Himachal Pradesh, Bilaspur, Delhi, Part I-A, Report, pp 8-9, 26 ; Census Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District, pp 25-26 Statistical Abstract, of Punjab, 1980, p. 44 and Director, Census Operations, Punjab

*The figures relate to the present District of Firozpur.

According to the 1981 Census, the Punjab had on an average 333 persons to a square kilometre, with the Jalandur District as most thickly populated (510) and Firozpur as most sparsely populated (223). The reasons for the sparse population are not far to seek. The southern Tahsil of Fazilka partakes of the nature of a desert, with sandy soil and scanty rainfall, and wherever these disadvantages are not offset by irrigation, agriculture is a gamble with the rains and consequently the population is scarce. This Tahsil supported only 142 persons in 1961 on one square kilometre. Then the belt area along the Sutluj suffers from inundation during the monsoon season, aggravated by the shifting course of the River. The area where canal irrigation has been provided has developed waterlogging and unhealthy conditions at some places. Another factor contributing to the sparse population is the area touching the Pakistan border, where conditions are not uniformly peaceful. The Firozpur Tahsil also suffers from these drawbacks in its western portion, but because of the location in it of the Firozpur Town and the Cantonment, the density works out at 175.

Sex Ratio.—According to the 1971 Census, out of the total population of 10,44,936 of the District, 5,57,266 were males and 4,87,670 females i.e. showing a ratio of 53.3 : 46.7. As per the Census of 1981, the population of the Firozpur District stood at 13,07,804, with 6,94,280 males and 6,13,524 females, i.e. with a ratio of 53.1 : 46.9.

In the Punjab, there were 886 females per 1,000 males and this figure was lowest among those with respect to the States of India. The corresponding figures with respect to the Indian union was 932 (1971). According to the 1971 Census, it was 875 females per 1,000 of the population for the Firozpur District and as per the 1981 Census it was 884 females per 1,000 of the population.

During the seventy years from 1911 to 1981, there has been an improvement in favour of women as the following figures show :

Year	Females per thousand males in the Firozpur District
1911	781
1921	800
1931	817
1941	821
1951	850
1961	848
1971	875
1981	884

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District, p. 27 ; Census of India, 1971 Series 17 Punjab Part II-A, General Population Tables, p. 42 and Director, Census Operations, Punjab

As per the 1981 Census, among the three tahsils, Firozpur and Fazilka had 886 females per 1,000 males, followed by Zira (877).

The sex ratio for the rural areas of the District works out at 885 and for the urban areas at 879 : the corresponding figures in 1971 were 876 and 871 respectively.

Age Competition.—According to the 1961* Census, the population of the District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972) is distributed into various age-groups as under :

With a view to comprehending the comparative strength of these groups, the totals have uniformly been taken as 1,000 :

The Distribution of 1,000 persons of each sex by age-groups according to the 1971 Census in the Firozpur District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972)

Age-group	Total Population			Rural		Urban	
	Persons	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
All ages	..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
0-9	..	313.62	305.87	332.76	314.12	325.32	273.88
10-14	..	119.91	120.31	119.44	121.90	118.76	114.14
15-19	..	91.11	92.10	89.93	91.63	88.87	93.94
20-24	..	84.81	83.97	85.70	78.48	83.14	105.25
25-29	..	76.91	76.46	77.45	72.91	76.54	90.22
30-34	..	61.88	61.87	61.90	59.26	61.37	72.00
35-39	..	46.00	45.59	46.47	43.46	45.93	52.87
40-44	..	47.32	47.11	47.57	46.31	47.56	50.19
45-49	..	35.37	35.85	34.81	35.60	35.10	36.82
50-54	..	38.96	41.69	35.75	42.86	36.29	37.15
55-59	..	18.30	18.89	17.61	19.01	17.88	18.42
60-64	..	27.84	29.94	25.36	31.38	26.12	24.35
65-69	..	10.33	11.32	9.15	11.70	9.39	9.85
70*	..	27.17	28.65	25.42	31.11	27.17	19.15
Age not stated	..	0.47	0.38	0.59	0.27	0.56	0.77

*The data on the age composition of the Firozpur District as per the 1971 Census are not available.

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District pp. 27, 244-45)

Too much reliance cannot be placed on the inferences to be drawn from the figures given in the above table, since a district is a small geographical area and the inflow and outflow of population, as a disturbing factor, cannot be ignored. With this reservation, some inferences are mentioned below :

The age pyramid has a broad base and tapers rather obliquely : 314 persons per thousand of the population are below the age of 10 and only 84 of the age of 55 years and above. Roughly speaking, four out of every ten persons are below the age of 15, five in the groups 15 years to below 55, and only one past the age of 55.

The males below the age of 15 years are 426 per thousand males : The corresponding figure for the females is 442. In the age-groups between 15 and below 55 years, the males are 485 per thousand males but the females are 480. Covered by ages 55 years and above, the males, are 89 and the females are only 78. The girls in the rural areas, unfortunately, still do not receive the same care as the boys, and after marriage, they have the extra handicaps of maternity troubles and the stress of domestic life.

It is a daily observation that a large number of persons shift from the villages to the towns for education and livelihood. The low-paid among them leave their families in their village homes and live in the towns by themselves. When past the age of useful work, some from among them return to their villages. The effect of this type of movement is reflected in the statistics of the rural and urban age composition. For age-groups below 15, 15 to below 55, and 55 and above, the distribution among the males is 436, 471 and 93 per thousand males in the rural areas, and 388, 539 and 73 in the urban areas. The corresponding figures for the females in the rural areas are 444, 475 and 81, and for the urban areas are 434, 500 and 66.

Marital Status.—In the following table, according to the 1961* Census, the persons in different age-groups in the District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972) are further classified according to their marital status. To comprehend the significance of these figures, one thousand males and one thousand females, for the District, as a whole, and for the rural and urban areas, are distributed according to marital status :

One thousand males and females, classified according to their marital status, as per the 1961 Census, in the Firozpur

*Latest data are not available.

District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972).

Marital Status	Total		Rural		Urban	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total ..	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Never married ..	586·51	510·60	593·03	311·15	561·19	508·31
Married ..	373·96	423·61	365·85	423·60	405·40	423·67
Widowed ..	38·04	63·98	39·57	63·38	32·13	66·44
Divorced or separated ..	0·93	1·02	1·00	1·06	0·67	0·84
Unspecified Status ..	0·56	0·79	0·55	0·81	0·61	0·74

(Census of India, 1961, Punjab District Census Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District, P. 28)

It will be noticed that in the District, as a whole, 59 per cent of the males and 51 per cent of the females are unmarried. The higher proportion of the unmarried males is due to the shortage of females, which aspect has been dealt with earlier. Correspondingly, there is a higher proportion of the married among the females than among the males.

The proportion of the married males was higher in the towns than in the villages, but the proportion of the married females was almost the same in the rural and urban areas. This situation might have been due to the better financial position among the towns people, so that fewer persons had to defer marriage because of the lack of means.

Marriage in India is universal and there is always an explanation for an old bachelor or an old spinster. Out of the unmarried males and females numbering 5,13,997 and 3,79,241 respectively in the District,* in the rural areas there were only 35 males per thousand past the age of 34 years who never married and only 4 spinsters per thousand of the females past the age of 24 years. The corresponding figures for the urban areas were 24 and 5 respectively.

(ii) Distribution of Population between Rural and Urban Areas

According to the 1981 Census, the tahsil-wise distribution of the

* The above data include those pertaining to the Moga and Muktsar tahsils which were transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972.

population between the rural and urban areas in the District was as under :

District	Tahsil	Persons	Males	Females
Total District		.. 13,07,804	6,94,280	6,13,524
	Rural	.. 10,09,733	5,35,609	4,74,124
	Urban	.. 2,98,071	1,58,671	1,39,400
Firozpur	.. Tahsil	.. 4,36,655	2,31,582	2,05,073
	Rural	.. 3,14,014	1,66,614	1,47,400
	Urban	.. 1,22,641	64,968	57,673
Zira	.. Tahsil	.. 2,95,958	1,57,705	1,38,253
	Rural	.. 2,67,049	1,42,221	1,24,828
	Urban	.. 28,909	15,484	13,425
Fazilka	.. Tahsil	.. 5,75,191	3,04,993	2,70,198
	Rural	.. 4,28,670	2,26,774	2,01,896
	Urban	.. 1,46,521	78,219	68,302

Source : Director, Census Operations, Punjab.

(iii) Displaced Persons

The partition of the country in 1947 resulted in an unprecedented migration of the minority communities from both sides of the border. The Muslims from the Firozpur District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972) migrated to Pakistan, from where the Hindus and the Sikhs migrated to India and settled in this District. Among all the districts in the Punjab, the Firozpur District accommodated the largest number of the refugees from Pakistan. Of these, about four-fifths settled in the rural areas and the rest in the urban areas of the District.

The table given in Appendix on pages 98-99 shows the details of the refugee population by the district of the origin in Pakistan, settling in the Firozpur District.

(b) Languages

According to the 1961 Census, there is an almost bilateral distribution in the District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972) in regard to the mother-tongue ; two-thirds of the people gave it as Punjabi and one-third as Hindi. The Assamese,

TAHSIL-WISE POPULATION
FIROZPUR DISTRICT
1981

FIGURES IN
THOUSANDS

URBAN — FEMALE
RURAL — MALE

FIGURES IN
THOUSANDS

600 —

550 —

500 —

450 —

400 —

350 —

300 —

250 —

200 —

150 —

100 —

50 —

0 —

— 600

— 550

— 500

— 450

— 400

— 350

— 300

— 250

— 200

— 150

— 100

— 50

— 0

FIROZPUR

ZIRA

FAZILKA

URBAN RURAL FEMALE MALE URBAN RURAL FEMALE MALE URBAN RURAL FEMALE MALE

600 550 500 450 400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0 600 550 500 450 400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0 600 550 500 450 400 350 300 250 200 150 100 50 0

Malayalam and Tamil languages were returned by some persons in the Defence services. The following table shows the distribution of persons by the mother-tongue :

Mother Tongue	Number	Per 1,000
Punjabi	10,83,807	670
Hindi	5,27,940	326
Urdu	1,643	1
Tamil	1,238	1
Assamese	630	1
Malayalam	794	1
Other languages	3,064	..

(Census of India, 1961, District Census Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District, pp 30, 252-53)

Under the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967*, Punjabi in the Gurmukhi script was introduced as the official language of the State on 13 April 1968. The Act provides that Punjabi shall be used for such official purposes of the State and from such dates as may be specified by notifications to be issued from time to time. For official work at the district level and below, Punjabi has replaced English in almost all matters, except those relating to accounts, technology, etc.

For the promotion of Hindi, the Punjab Government holds seminars, *kavi sammelans* (poetical symposia), etc. from time to time.

(c) Religions and Castes

Principal Communities

According to the 1971 Census, the population of the District was 10,44,936. The Sikhs form the majority and the Hindus come next. In the urban areas, however, the Hindus form the majority and the Sikhs come next. The majority of the Sikhs reside in the rural areas. The

*The Act of 1967 repealed the Punjab Official Languages Act, 1960.

religion-wise population is as under :

Religion	Persons	Males	Females
Sikhs	5,63,130	3,00,782	2,62,348
Hindus	4,60,657	2,44,746	2,15,911
Christians	14,343	7,599	6,744
Muslims	4,216	2,278	1,938
Jains	754	396	358
Buddhists	438	285	153
Other religions	..	..	..
Religion not stated	1,398	1,180	218
Total	10,44,936	5,57,266	4,87,670

(*Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1980, pp. 62—65*)

Sikhs.—The word 'sikh' has its origin from the Sanskrit word 'shishya' which means a 'disciple'. Sikhs are the followers of Guru Nanak Dev and believe in the teachings of the Ten Gurus and the *Guru Granth Sahib*. The creed of Guru Nanak Dev is summed up in the simple formula, "the unity of God and the brotherhood of man." The Sikhs are monotheists, opposed to idol worship and are against asceticism and casteism.

Next to Parsis, the Sikhs are the most prosperous community in the country. Also, as soldiers, farmers and sportsmen, they are at the top. They are also good technicians, mechanics, carpenters, artisans and engineers. The vast majority of the Sikhs are peasants, living in scattered villages and hamlets.

According to the 1971 Census, the number of the Sikhs in the District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils, transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972) was 5,63,130, which formed 53.8 per cent of the total population. The Sikhs include Jats, Khatri, Aroras, Kambohs and the Scheduled Castes. A few sects among them are Nihangs, Namdharis, Nirankaris, etc.

Here, mention may be made of the Sodhis, who played a conspicuous part during the Sikh rule in the Punjab. According to their account, their ancestor, Kalrai, ruled at Lahore, and his brother, Kalpat, at Kasur. The latter drove out Kalrai, who took refuge with some king in the Deccan and married his daughter. Their son, Sodhi Rai, reconquered Lahore, and Kalpat, in his turn, became an exile. He went to Varanasi and studied the Vedas, on which account he obtained the name of Bedi. All the Sikh Gurus were Khatries and included the Bedis, Trehans, Bhallas and Sodhis. Nanak belonged to the Bedi caste and Guru Gobind Singh to the Sodhi caste. The most important Sodhi families in the District are those of Guru Har Sahai. The Guru Har Sahai family traces its succession directly from Guru Ramdas, with whom the great Sikh Temple of Amritsar is intimately associated.

Jats

The Sikh Jats are preponderant in all the tahsils of the District and their principal clans are described below. The Hindu Jats are practically confined to the Fazilka Tahsil and are principally the Bagri Jats and the Bishnois.

Sidhus.—The Sidhus occupy numerous villages in the sandy tracts of the Firozpur and Zira Tahsils and in the east of the Fazilka Rohi. Sidhu was the fourth in descent from Batera, who had four sons, one of whom, named Bur, was the ancestor of the Brars. Brar was the eighth in descent from Bur. Both the Sidhus and the Muhammadan Bhatti Rajputs claim that they belong originally to one and the same clan.

Brar had two sons, Paur and Dhul, besides three others who embraced Islam. From Paur were descended the Mahrajian families. The great-grandson of Maharaj was Mohan. Mohan, with his sons and grandsons, came to this District about 1580 and settled at Maharaj, a tract to the south of Moga, calling the village by the name of their ancestor.

Thakur Mohan fled Jaisalmer, where he had revolted against the Rana, Chattar Sain, and killed him in battle. He and his son, Rup Chand, migrated with their flocks and herds to Bathinda, which was then the Bhatti territory. The Bhattis, however, resented this incursion of the new settlers and attacked them. Mohan and Rup Chand were killed in the battle. The remaining sons of Mohan moved on and settled at the Mari Sikhan to the south of the present Village of Mahraj. This was in the *tappa* of the Man Bhullars who, under their leader Lala, greatly oppressed the descendants of Mohan. Duni Chand, who seems to have been the principal

man, appealed to Guru Har Rai who lived at Gurusar. The Guru, who had prophesied the future eminence of the descendants of Phul, advised the Bhullars to make peace with them. Duni Chand led his people to the Ramsara Pond and there Karam Chand founded Mahraj, in 1654. The struggle with the Man Bhullars continued, but finally Lala was killed and his tribe retreated before the Mohanki Clan. The descendants of Mohan, despite continual struggles with the Faridkot Barars, retained the possession of the Bahya Territory ; the name Bahya is derived from *bais*—22, the number of their villages.

Phul separated himself from others of his clan and founded the Village of Phul. The ruling families of Patiala, Nabha and Jind, as well as the Sardars of Bhadaur and Malaud, are the descendants of Phul, and are, hence, known as the Phulkian families. The remainder of Mohan's posterity were simple cultivators, but, owing to their being so nearly related to the great cis-Satluj rajas, they came under the exclusive dominion of none of them. Sometime before the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46) they agreed to put themselves under the British rule, and were allowed to hold their land revenue free in perpetuity.

The reputed founders of the various villages may be mentioned. Sema, son of Mohan, was of a quarrelsome disposition and his sons took after him ; they slew Rama, son of Phul, and all but one of his grandsons fled to Chainiwala ; hence they did not share in the diversion of the territory. On their return, however, they were given an outlying block on the border where they founded the village of Sema. In later times, some of them emigrated and founded a number of villages in the Fazilka and Muktsar tahsils.

Sardul Chand, another son of Mohan, also received no share in the division of the country, as he refused to contribute to the revenue, paid to the Subah of Sirhind ; hence his descendants only hold a small portion of Patti Karam Chand, known as Thulla Sardul. Sanwal, grandson of Mohan, gave his name to Patti Sanwal. He had three sons, Lal Chand, Bega and Dipa. Lal Chand founded Puhli and Dhilwan. Bega founded Kala Bega (Lahra Bega) and Dipa founded Mari. Dipa's descendants own part of Patti Sanwal. Karam Chand had five sons. The descendants of Haria and Baghela founded and hold Bath, Nathpura, Giddar, and Patti Karam Chand. Khana's sons founded Lahra Khana, Singha's sons founded Lahra Dhulkot and Lahra Sondha, and Muhabbat founded Lahra Muhabbat.

Sandali, son of Rup Chand, gave his name to Patti Sandli. His sons, Sadda and Sukha, founded Kalian Sadda, Kalian Sukha and Kalian Bhai.

Mal, son of Sangheta, his third son, founded Kalian Malke, Begu and Bhaini, whereas the descendants of his other sons, Tilok Chand and Jowahir, founded Bajuana.

Duni Chand, who was otherwise known as Kala, gave his name to Patti Kala. His son, Dalla, founded Burj Dalla and Ganga, whereas his other sons, Khumara and Fatta, colonized Nathana.

From Sidhu's son, Bur, are descended the Kaithal, Arnauli, Jhumba and Sadhuwal families. Several villages of Barars of this branch who style themselves Bhais, on account of one of their ancestors, Bhai Bhagtu, having been attached to the service of the Sikh Guru, are settled in other villages of the Mahraj *Pargana*, known as the Bhuchho villages. The Bhai of Arnauli holds six of these villages in *jagir*.

The greatest part of the Sidhus outside the Mahraj *Pargana* are the descendants of Sangar and are related to the Faridkot family. "When they came to this District, they seem to have been a wild semi-savage people, living on the spontaneous produce of the jungle and on the milk of their herds, and hardly knew how to make *chapatis*. It seems probable from various indications that whole of the tribe was not the same descent, but that a-nucleus of leading families had associated with themselves the members of the jungle tribes not differing very widely from the Baurias of the present day. All of them took to calling themselves "Sidhus or Barars". The above passage is adapted from the 1889 edition of the Firozpur Gazetteer, but the authority for it is not known. From their appearance one would not connect the Sidhus with the Baurias or other aborigines.

There appear to have been two invasions of the Sidhu Barars. The Mohanki branch of the clan are said to have founded Mahraj about 1650 after struggle with the Mans and Bhullars who then held that tract. The second influx seems to have taken place some fifty years later under the leadership of the Kot Kapura Chief when the Gills were driven out of the Bagha Purana (Fardikot District) *ilaqa* and their City of Danda Manda (now represented by a large *theh* near Rajiana) was destroyed. Their turbulent character is summed up in the proverb *Tikka Dhaliwal da, Chau-dhar Gharewal da, Barchhi Barar di*.

The Barars generally call themselves Sidhu Barars, having rather a preference for the name of Sidhu over that of Barar.

There are twenty-four sections or *muhins* of the Sidhus, which are named : Rathaia, Khilria, Mahramia, Darake, Mahrajke, Ratia, Bhulin, Harike, Bandhate, Bhukun, Jaid, Barar, Pahoke, Sara, Manoke, Khokarke, Ugarke, Sahuke, Amunke, Achal, Aspal and one or two others.

After the Barar and Mahrajke sections, the most important of these are Jaid, Sara, Mahramid, Darake and Harike.

Gills.—The Gills are the only important section of the Jats here who do not trace their origin to a Bhatti stock. They say they come from a Raja of the Variah clan of Rajputs who ruled at Garhmathala. It is not clear where this place was. The name *Gill* is explained by a story to the effect that the Raja had no children by his Rajputni wives and, therefore, married Jat woman. She bore a son, but the other wives, moved by jealousy, exposed the infant in a marshy spot in the jungle. The infant accidentally found by the King's minister and called it *Gill* from the place where he was found, *gill* meaning moisture. Another version is given in L.H. Griffin's *Punjab Chiefs*, according to which the child, who was exposed was the son of Gill, and he was found being licked and fondled by a tiger (*sher*), from which he received the name of Sher Gill. The Sher Gil are one section of the Gills. Other large sections are the Wadan Gills and Vairsi Gills. There are twelve sections altogether. The Wadan Gills say that one of their ancestors was Raja Bhainipal, who built the Fort of Bathinda, so named, it is said, because he buried a Banian, called Bhatia, in the foundations.

The Wadan Gills were settled about the beginning of the seventeenth century in the south and west of Moga, the tract now occupied by the Barars. Their principal towns were Rajiana and Danda Minda, the latter now a mound of ruins near Sekha Kalan. The Gills still go to Rajiana, though it now belongs to the Barars, in the *desi* month of Chet and perform the *jathera* ceremony of scooping up handfuls of earth from the *chappar* or tank ; there is also a *math*, known as Raja Pir there, where they make offerings *jharawa*. The Barars of the Sangar clan attacked them and took these places, and the Gills were driven farther to the north. They then established themselves about Chirak, Ghal Kalan and Moga (Faridkot District) Peace was at last made by a daughter of Sangar, having been married to one of the Gills, an alliance which at that time was considered to raise the Barars considerably in the social scale.

Moga and Vega were two brothers and men of importance among the Wadan Gills. Moga had four sons, namely, Ausang (whose descendants live in Moga and Landeke) ; Rupa (whose descendants live in Fuglura and Krial) ; Awwal Khair (whose descendants live in Mahna, Chuganwan and Landeke) ; and Sandali (whose descendants live in Kokri and Dunewala).

The Sher Gills are mostly to be found in the Majha and in the south of the Zira and Firozpur tahsils. They are said to be the descendants of two brothers, Dhao and Raja. Raja had four sons, viz. Dhude, Sane, Augar and Kanh.

Dhaliwals.—The Dhaliwals or Dhariwals were the earliest of the Jat tribes to establish themselves in this District. Their origin is uncertain ; all they can tell is that they came from Dharandgri, which they say was somewhere in the south of India. They are apparently a branch of the great Bhatti tribe. The Raja of Dhopur was of their clan. They are divided into two sections, the Udis and the Manis. The principal villages of the Udis are Ransi, Salabatpura and Bilaspur, Saidoke and Dholpur belong to the Mani section.

Kangar, a little to the south of the Moga boundary, was the headquarters of the Dhaliwals before they came to this District. A daughter of Mihr Mitha of Kangar was married to the Emperor Akbar. It is related that the Emperor first saw her at a well in her native village. She had two *gharas* (pitchers) of water on her head ; at the same time, she caught a young buffalo which had escaped from its owner, putting her foot on the rope attached to its head, and thus held the headstrong animal without losing her balance until he came up to claim it. The Emperor was so much delighted with this feat of strength and courage that he made her his wife, in the hopes that she would be the mother of children no less courageous than herself. On her father, Mihr Mitha, he conferred the title of *Mian* and gave him a *jagir* of one hundred and twenty villages, of which Kangar was the centre.

The descendants of Mihr Mitha, though called *Mian*, are said not to have been converted to Islam, but for several generations their leaders, especially at Himmatpura (Faridkot District), bore distinctly Muhammadan names, and it is not impossible that they conformed to the religion of the Mughal Emperors until the rise of the Sikh power encouraged them to return to Hinduism. The Dhaliwal villages having been under cultivation from an earlier period than the rest of the *Rohi* country, the population began to press upon the land in course of time and the holdings became rather small.

Their origin from Kangar is preserved in their marriage ceremony when it is customary for the bridegroom's father to call out : “*Nikalo Kangar da Mirasi, Kangar pahla makan hai*” and the Kangar *mihasti* (bard) receives the largest share of the largesse made to the menials.

Khosas.—The Khosas are a strongly marked tribe, holding villages mostly near the junction of the three tahsils Zira, Firozpur and Moga (Faridkot District). They say that they are Tunwar Rajputs from Delhi, and they have a story, resembling that of the Gills, of their ancestor Randhir having been exposed as an infant, and miraculously preserved ; he was sheltered by a kite.

Sandhus.—The Sandhus of this District have mostly come from the Majha. Many were brought over into the Zira *Bet* by the Ahluwalia Sardars during the time of their rule. Their principal villages are Sarhali Kalan, Valtoha, Chabba, Bharana and Munawan. Some other Sandhu villages are found in the south of Firozpur. There is another important group of Sandhus in the Fazilka Tahsil.

The above are the only tribes that require any extended notice ; there are, however, many miscellaneous clans scattered throughout the District. Many of them were introduced as settlers by the Bhais of Arnauli into the villages founded by them in the Muktsar Rohi and Bhuchro *ilaqas*. Such minor tribes as are in any way important are mentioned below :

Other Jats.—The Bhullars are found in the Moga and Muktsar tahsils. They seem to be connected with the Mans and are one of the original Jat tribes. According to popular history, they held the country in the neighbourhood of Mahraj, from which they were expelled by the Barars. The Buttars are practically confined to the Fazilka Tahsil. The only claim to importance that the Chahils had was that some of them shared with the Sidhus the position of *pujaris* at the Darbar Sahib at Muktsar. The Dhillons are scattered all over the District. The importance of the Kangs lay only in the fact that the Chief family, descended from the famous Tara Singh Gheba, held *jagirs* in the Firozpur and Zira tahsils. The Mans are numerically of some importance in the Fazilka Tahsil. Their original home in this part of the country seems to have been the Mahraj *ilaqa*, whence they were expelled by the Barars. They still go to Ganga near Nathana to bathe in the pond there and do the *jaihera* ceremony. A number of the Sanghas have some religious influence and are known as Bhais, especially those of Daroli in the Moga Tahsil.

The Bagri Jats are emigrants from Bikaner and the south. They are confined to the Fazilka Tahsil. A few of them have embraced Sikhism. The principal clans are the Godara, Jakhar, Pannu and Saharan. They are distinguished from the Sikh Jats mainly by their speech, which is Bagri.

Rajputs.—After the Jats, the Rajputs of different clans formed the most important agricultural tribe of the District before the partition of 1947. Most of them being Muslims migrated to Pakistan. The Hindu Rajputs are unimportant. There is a Rathore family in the Firozpur Tahsil, and there are some Bhatis in the Fazilka Tahsil.

Hindus.—According to the 1971 Census, the number of Hindus in the District was 4,60,657 (2,44,746 males and 2,15,911 females) which formed about 44 per cent of the total population.

The word Hindu is a geographical expression derived from the River Sindhu (Hindu in Persian and Indus in Greek). The name of our country is also derived from the Indus, and the term Hindu originally meant only 'Indian'. Later, the religion professed by the Indians came to be known as Hinduism. The Vedic Aryans did not give any name to the set of beliefs that had come down to them. In later centuries, the heritage represented by the Vedas and the *Smritis* (system of individual and social law) acquired the name of Sanatan Dharma or Eternal Religion.

Hinduism comprises many traditional faiths and is difficult to define. It is not a religion in the sense Islam and Christianity are religions. It is not ascribed to a single founder prophet or messiah or a scripture like the Quran or the Bible—nor does it have a clearly defined dogma to which allegiance must be owed. It has become customary, therefore, to say that Hinduism is a way of life. It is difficult to define this way of life. A Hindu can be a monotheist or monist and an idolater, a vegetarian or a non-vegetarian.

There are, however, two dogmas common to all Indian religious, viz., the doctrine of *karma* and the theory of reincarnation and the transmigration of the soul. Broadly speaking, a Hindu may be defined as a theist who accepts *karma* and believes in the cycle of birth, death and rebirth.

Just as Hinduism, as it has developed over the centuries, is a complex of several cultures, Hindus as a people are the product of the intermingling of many races. A number of invading tribes, such as the Huns, the Scythians and the Mongols have been absorbed in the stream of Hindus along with Dravidians, Australoids and Mediterraneans.

Most Hindus observe endogamy and exogamy. *Sagotra* marriages are traditionally not permitted among the twice-born castes. There is *sapinda* exogamy among all Hindus. *Sapinda* has two meanings : 'those who share particles of the same body' ; and 'those who are united by offering balls of cooked rice (*pinda*) to the same dead ancestors'. Marriage taboos differ from community to community. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 bars marriage within five generations on the father's side and three on the mother's side. But it permits the marriage of cross-cousins where this is customary. The Act also permits *sagotra* marriages. Whatever the law, to most of the Hindu marriages, there still remains an inviolable sacrament. It must be performed by priests before the holy fire. To Brahmins, the rite of *panigrahanam* (the groom holding the right hand of the bride) and *saptapadi* (taking the seven steps) are the supreme rites that unite the couple. The dowry system still prevails ; so, too, the matching of horoscopes¹.

¹The Illustrated Weekly of India, Annual 1972 People of India. pp. 22-39

The Hindus in the District belong to different castes and subcastes, viz. Brahmins, Khatri, Aroras, Banians, Suds, Bagris, Rajputs, Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes. The Khatri are more important as a landholding class than as a trading class. The Aroras form the largest trading class in the District. Nearly all the Banians belong to the Aggarwala section, there being also a few Oswals and Mahesris. Though a few, the Suds are of some importance as traders.

The Hindus comprise the followers of different sects, such as Sanatan Dharam, Arya Samaj, Dev Samaj, Bishnoi and Radhasoami. Of these, the Bishnoi and Dev Samaj require notice.

Bishnoi

The most important development of Hinduism in this District is the Bishnoi Sect, which is of Bagri or Marwari origin. The name Bishnoi is evidently derived from the prominence they give in their creed and worship to the God Vishnu, though they themselves say it is derived from the twenty-nine (Bishnau) articles of their creed as prescribed by the founder of the Sect. The Bishnois live in the villages about Sitoganno and to the south of Abohar and are numerous in the Hissar District (Haryana) and in Bikaner (Rajasthan). It is said that any member of the higher Hindu Castes can become a Bishnoi, but in this District, at least they are almost all Jat or Khati by tribe, and retain the languages, dress and other characteristics of the Bagris; but they try to sink their tribe in their religion and give their caste as Bishnoi merely. The account they give of the founder of their sect is as follows: At Pimpasar, a village south of Bikaner (Rajasthan), there lived a Rajput Panwar, named Laut, who had attained the age of sixty years and had no son. One day, a neighbour going to sow his field met Laut, and, deeming it a bad omen to meet a childless man, turned from his purpose. This cut Laut to the quick, and he went to the jungle and bewailed his childlessness until evening, when a faqir appeared to him and told him that in nine months he should have a son, and after showing his miraculous power by drawing milk from a calf, vanished from his sight. After nine months, a child miraculously appeared in Laut's house and was miraculously suckled by his wife Hansa. This happened in Sambat 1508 (A.D. 1451). For seven years, the boy, who was an incarnation (autar) of Vishnu, played with his fellows, and then for 27 years he tended cattle, but all this time he spoke no word. His miraculous powers were shown in various ways, such as producing sweets from nothing for the delectation of his companions, and he became known as the *Achambha* (the wonder), whence his name of Jhamba, by which he is generally known. After 34 years, a Brahman was sent for to get him to speak, and on his

confessing his failure, Jhambaji again showed his power by lighting a lamp, by simply snapping his fingers, and uttered his first word. He then adopted the life of a teacher and went to reside on a sandhill some 48 km. south of Bikaner, where after 51 years, he died and was buried instead of being burnt like an ordinary Hindu. He did not marry but devoted himself to the life of an ascetic teacher. His sayings (*sabd*), numbering 120, were written by his disciples, and have been handed down in a book (*pothi*) which is written in the Nagri character and in a Hindi dialect similar to Bagri, seemingly a Marwari dialect. He gave 29 precepts for the guidance of his followers.

The Bishnois abstain from tobacco, drugs and spirits, and are noted for their regard for animal life which is such that not only will they not themselves kill any living creature, but they do their utmost to prevent others from doing so. The day before the new moon, they observe as the Sabbath and a day of fasting, doing no work in the fields or in the house. They bathe and pray three times a day. In the morning, in the afternoon and in the evening, saying "Bishno Bishno". Their clothing is the same as that of other Bagris, except that their women do not allow the waist to be seen, and are fond of wearing black woollen clothing. They are very particular about ceremonial purity, and it is a common saying that if a Bishnoi's food is on the first of a string of 20 camels and a man of another caste touches the last camel of the string, the Bishnoi will consider his food defiled and throw it away.

The ceremony of initiation (*pahul*) is as follows :

A number of representative Bishnois assemble, and before them a saadh Bishnoi priest after lighting a sacrificial fire (*hom*) instructs the novice in the duties of the faith. He then takes some water in a new earthen vessel over which he prays in a set from (*Bishnogayatri*), stirring it all the while with his string of beads (*mala*) and after asking the consent of the assembled Bishnois, he pours the water three times into the hands of the novice who drinks it off. The novice's scalp-lock (*choti*) is then cut off and his head is shaved, for the Bishnois shave the whole head and do not leave a scalp-lock like the other Hindus; but they allow the beard to grow, only shaving the chin on the father's death. Infant-baptism is also practized, and thirty days after the birth, the child, whether boy or girl, is baptized by the priest (*saadh*) in much the same way as an adult; only the set form of prayer is different (*Garhb-gayatri*), and the priest pours a few drops of water into the child's mouth, and gives the child's relatives each three handfuls of the consecrated water to drink; at the same time the barber clips off the child's hair. This baptismal ceremony also has the effect of purifying the house which has been made impure by the birth (*sutak*).

The Bishnois marry among themselves only, and by a ceremony of their own. They do not revere Brahmans, but have priest (*saadh*) of their own, chosen from among the laity. These *saadhs* are celibates. They do not burn their dead, but bury them below the cattle-stall or in a place frequented by cattle, such as a cattle-pen. They observe the Holi in a way different from that of other Hindus. After sunset on that day, they fast till the next forenoon, when after hearing, read the account of how Prahlad was tortured by his infidel father Harnakash for believing in the God Vishnu until he was delivered by Vishnu himself in his incarnation of Narsingh (*lion-man*), and mourning over Prahlad's sufferings, they light a sacrificial fire and partake of the consecrated water, and after distributing unpurified sugar (*gur*) in commemoration of Prahlad's delivery from the fire into which he was thrown, they break their fast. Bishnois go on pilgrimage to the place where Jhambaji is buried, in the south of Bikaner, where there is a tomb built over his remains and a temple (*mandir*) with regular attendants (*pujaris*). A festival takes place here every six months in the months of Asauj and Phagon, when the pilgrims go to the sandhill on which Jhamhaji lived and there light sacrificial fires (*hom*) of *jandi* wood in vessels of stone and offer a burnt offering of barley, *til*, ghee and sugar, at the same time muttering the set prayers. They also make presents to the attendants of the temple and distribute *moth* and other grain for the peacocks and pigeons which live there in numbers. Should any one have committed an offence, such as having killed an animal, or sold a cow or goat to a Musalman, or allowed an animal to be killed when he could have prevented it, he is fined by the assembled Bishnois for the good of the temple and the animals kept there. Another place of pilgrimage is a tomb called Chhambola in the Jodhpur area, where a festival is held once a year in Chet. There the pilgrims bathe in the tank and help to deepen it, and sing and play musical instruments and scatter grain to peacocks and pigeons.

Dev Samaj

It is a religious society founded on 16 February 1887 by Bhagwan Dev Atma whose personal name was Pandit Satyanand Agnihotri (1850—1929). The society is devoted to the service of mankind along social, intellectual and, above all, higher life-evolving lines, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, country or any other extraneous consideration. As such, its object is to advance social, educational, moral and reclamation work. The Dev Samajis do not believe in the existence of God. They abstain from meat, wine and other intoxicants.

The society runs a good number of schools and colleges in the District.

Scheduled Castes

According to the 1971 Census, the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the District was 1,89,918 (1,02,488 males and 87,430 females), forming 18.2 per cent of the total population. Of these, 1,57,210 were rural and 32,708 urban. They include both the Hindus and the Sikhs. Only 16,802 persons (14,080 males and 2,722 females), i.e. 8.85 per cent of them were literate.

Throughout the past, the Scheduled Castes have remained backward and down-trodden and have been treated as untouchables. After Independence, untouchability has been made a legal offence. Steps have also been taken by the Government of India to ameliorate the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. A certain percentage of vacancies for posts under the Government are reserved for them. Land is allotted to the landless Harijan cultivators. Loans and grants are given to enable them to start small and medium-scale industries. Some other concessions are also given to them.

Christians.—The Christians in the District are both Catholics and Protestants. The Catholics believe in Trinity, i.e. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, united in one god head. As the followers of Jesus Christ, they owe their allegiance to the Holy Church, founded by Jesus Christ and entrusted to Peter, the first vicar (the Pope). His Holiness the Pope, who resides in the Vatican City, is the supreme religious head of the Catholics. The Protestants are the adherents of Refined doctrines. According to the 1971 Census, the number of Christians in the District was 14,343.

Muslims.—The Muslims migrated to Pakistan *en masse* on the partition of the country in 1947 and, according to the 1961 Census, their number in the District was only 4,216.

The Muslims essentially believe in : namely

(1) One God or Allah, (2) angels, (3) the Koran, (4) the Prophets, (5) Judgment, paradise and hell and (6) the divine decrees. The five primary duties, called the five pillars of Islam are : (1) repetition of the creed or *kalimah* every day, (2) prayer (3) alms-giving, (4) fasting during the month of Ramzan and (5) pilgrimage to Mecca. Apart from Ramzan, the other principal feasts are the Bakrid and the Shab-e-Barat. According to Islam, the daily prayer, called the *namaz*, has to be performed five times a day. In addition to the usual *namaz* of every day,

special *namaz* is held in the mosques every Friday, and generally the Muslims make it a point to attend this prayer.

The two main sects of the Muslims are Sunni and Shia.

Jains.—According to the 1971 Census, the number of Jains in the District was 754. There are two major sects among the Jains ; the Shvetambara (their monks are clad in white) and the Digambara (their monks are clothed by the elements).

Jains believe that the universe is infinite and eternal, and not created by any God. They worship the Jina or the Conqueror, who by his pious deeds and acts of self-denial in his past lives had overcome worldly passions, and hence freed himself from the unending cycle of rebirths, and attained *moksha* (salvation).

The Jain doctrine is based on the fundamental principle of *ahimsa* or non-violence. The rules of *ahimsa* and self-denial are observed and the Jains are strict vegetarians.

For all jains, fasting and austerity are considered essential for self-purification. They lay stress on mental discipline to obtain self-control, concentration in contemplation, and purity of thought.²

Buddhists.—At the time of the 1971 Census, the number of Buddhists in the District was 438.

(d) Social Life

The caste feeling in the society is getting relaxed day by day and the people of different castes mix together quite freely in their day-to-day life. With regard to the Scheduled Castes, however, some sort of aversion still does seem to persist in social contacts, particularly in the rural areas, in spite of the passage of the Untouchability(Offence) Act, 1955.

The influence exercised in the past by the *bradari* on an individual with regard to his social and personal behaviour is also on the wane, particularly in the urban areas.. In the villages, however, the hold of the *bradari* does persist to a great extent.

Under the stresses and strains of the modern social and economic set-up, the joint family system is breaking up day by day. The members of a family, however, generally make it a point to join at the time of marriage, death or other special occasions. As far as possible, people also try to help financially or in some other way their parents or other near relations.

²The Illustrated Weekly of India, Annual 1972, People of INDIA pp.67—69

With the spread of education and enlightenment, the practice of *purdah* among women has almost disappeared. However, among some conservative sections of the people in the rural areas, such as the Bagris and Bishnois, it is still observed strictly.

(i) **Property and Inheritance.**—The rule of inheritance of property has undergone a change with the passage of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. Under the Act, which governs the inheritance among the Hindus, the Sikhs, the Jains and the Buddhists, the property of the deceased is distributed equally among sons, daughters, the widows and the mother. The Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956, governs the adoption of children and the maintenance allowance to the wife.

Muslims are governed by the Shariat Act, 1937. Under Islamic Law, the sons, daughters and wife inherit the property of the deceased. The wife is the sole owner of *mehr* given to her at the time of marriage.

Inheritance among Christians is governed by the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

(ii) Marriage and Morals

Marriage.—Now-a-days, monogamy has become the usual practice among the people except the Muslims. Marriages have been classified by Manu into eight types, out of which the first four are considered good, whereas the rest are considered improper. No such classification is taken into account these days. Generally, arranged marriages are performed. The parents of a marriageable girl generally select a suitable boy either through their own efforts or with the assistance of some of their relations or friends. These duties were formerly performed by the *nai* (barber), but now in villages his services are utilized for informing the relations and acquaintances about the time and the venue of the ceremony. Among the advanced families, the matter is also initiated through advertisement in newspapers. It has now become a common practice to see the boy and the girl by the parties before settling the negotiations.

When the preliminaries have been settled, a specific date is fixed for the engagement. On the fixed day, the father of the girl, accompanied by some relatives, visits the house of the boy. The father of the girl offers seven dried dates (*chhuras*) to the boy along with sweets and money and applies the *tilak* or *tikka* to his forehead. The boy receives these presents and eats one dried date. The ceremony ends with mutual congratulations.

Among the Bishnois it is the boy's party which takes the initiative in the betrothal. The party goes to the girl's house and the members sit on

a *chadar*(sheet) in the courtyard, together with the girl's father and his party. The boy's father gives a rupee and a coconut to the girl's father or brother who accepts them by touching them with his forehead and then after bowing his head (signifying *namaskar*), takes them inside his house. Then they ask each other the names of the boy and the girl. The girl's father distributes sweets and the ceremony is complete. The gift of the coconut is the essential feature. Among the Bagri Suthars, each party takes the initiative, if the boy's party goes to the girl's house, the members of it go through the same ceremonies as those among the Bishnois, whereas if the girl's party takes the initiative, the ceremonies are the same as those among the Bagri Jats.

After the formal engagement, the sister or the sister-in-law of the boy visits the girl's house and hands over the *dupatta*(headwear) and some ornaments for the girl. This custom is called *chunni jarahna* (presenting the headwear). Sometime after that, the horoscopes of the boy and the girl are studied and the date of the marriage is fixed.

A day before the date of the marriage, the *sangeet*(singing) is held, in which the women from among the relatives, friends and neighbours participate. On the day of the marriage, an hour or so before the marriage-party starts in the evening, the *sehra bandhi* ceremony is performed. The marriage-party proceeds to the bride's house with pomp and show. The bridegroom rides a decorated mare at the head of the party. On reaching the bride's house, *milni* (reception) is held. After that, the boy is asked to dismount and the *jai mala* ceremony is performed. This ceremony consists the bride's garlanding the bridegroom. Then the dinner follows.

At the fixed auspicious time during the night, *phere* (circumambulating the holy fire by the bridegroom and the bride) ceremony is performed. In the morning, the bridegroom returns to his house along with the bride. Among the Bishnois, the Lord's blessings are sought through a night long recitation of prayers by the *gayan acharyas*. The marriage ceremony amongst the Jains is virtually the same as among the Hindus. Instead of the services of a Brahmin, those of a Jain priest are availed of.

Among the Sikhs, the marriage ceremony is performed according to the Anand Karaj (literally, the ceremony of bliss) rites in the presence of the *Guru Granth Sahib*. It is now generally done in the morning.

The marriage among the Christians is performed in a church. The relations and friends of both the bride and the bridegroom assemble there to greet the couple.

The marriage among the Muhammadans is a mutual contract and is called *nikah*. It is also generally an arranged marriage. After the betrothal takes place, the date of marriage is fixed. The bridegroom gives *mehr*, which is explicitly the property of the bride. The marriage-party proceeds to the bride's house. In the case of the Sunnis, the *vakil* of the bride obtains her consent in the presence of two witnesses and conveys it to the *vakil* of the bridegroom who sanctifies the marriage. Among the Shias, the consent of the bridegroom is obtained in the first instance.

A civil marriage is performed under the Special Marriage Act, 1954. It takes place when either the parents of both the parties disagree to the marriage or in case of a marriage within a sub-caste or between persons belonging to two different communities. This type of marriage is not popular.

Widow re-marriage

With the spread of education, enlightenment and progressive ideas, widow re-marriage is gradually gaining favour among all classes of the Hindus, Sikhs, etc. especially in the case of a widow of a younger age, without any issue.

Among the Jats, the *kareya* or *chaderandazi* marriage is performed in the following manner : The man puts a white sheet (*chadar*) over the widow's head in the presence of the brotherhood and distributes *gur*. One corner of this sheet is coloured red or yellow. This constitutes the ceremony and even this simple ceremony is sometimes dispensed with and the parties simply live together as a couple. Among the Mahtams,, the ceremony is the same. Among the Bagri Jats, the widow re-marriage is known as *natha*. The widow puts on a red dress(*orhna*) and a red sealing wax bangle(*churi*). The putting on of the *churi* constitutes the re-marriage, as widows do not wear bangles. If anyone other than a relation of the deceased husband is married to the widow he had to pay something to the husband's family.

Morals.—There is nothing particular about the standard of morals in the District, as it is the same all over this region. The customary coconjugal relations usually prevail. Generally, all persons marry with the exception of those who may be of unsound body or mind, disabled, suffering from infectious diseases, extremely poor, or disreputed.

With the exception of the Muslims, polygamy is practised only in exceptional circumstances. Polyandry does not exist. In the past, among the Jats and some lower castes, however, a women might sometimes

have been shared among several brothers, though recognised as the wife of only the eldest of them.

Divorce, as a custom, is confined only to the Muhammadans in accordance with the Muhammadan law. Among the Sikhs, Hindus, etc., divorce may be allowed by the court in exceptional circumstances, as provided under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Prostitution ended in the State with the passage of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956. However, the growing disregard of the traditional cultural values among the people since Independence has resulted in increasing moral laxity. The cases of immoral traffic in women generally escape the notice of the police. Only such cases as are reported to the police are investigated. The cases of elopement, enticement and abduction also cannot be properly checked, as these are generally caused by mutual consent.

Birth and Death Ceremonies

Birth Ceremonies.—Among the Hindus, the birth ceremonies start even before the birth of a child. The ceremony called *reet* is performed while a woman is in the family way. The expectant mother is greeted by close relations and neighbours. On the sixth night of birth of a male child, the ceremony of *chhati rat* is held when relations and friends assemble and, in their presence, the priest names the child according to its relations and horoscope. Among the Sikhs, the *Guru Granth Sahib* is opened at random and the child has to be found a name beginning with the first letter of first word of the first passage on the left page. According to the old custom, after child-birth, a woman is considered impure and remains confined to the house during the *sutak* period, extending up to forty days. The *mundan* ceremony of a child is performed between the ages of 3 and 5 years. This is generally observed on the Baisakhi day in April. This ceremony is not observed among the Sikhs who observe the *dastar* ceremony. On the birth of a child among the Christians, a priest is sent for to baptize it.

Among the Muhammadans at the time of birth, the midwife, is sent for. She applies sugar to the child's mouth, the ceremony being known as *gurhti*. After an hour, sheep's milk is given to the child with swab of cotton soaked in it. After the child has been bathed, the *imam* of the mosque is summoned. He recites the *bang* or call to prayer into the child's ears. The child's name is then announced. After 11 to 13 days, the mother bathes. After bathing, she changes her dress and leaves the birth-chamber (*zachch-khanna*). Circumcision (*khatna*) is occasionally

performed in infancy, but is generally deferred till the child is 5 to 12 years old.

The birth of a male child is an occasion for rejoicing among almost all the sections of the people.

Death Ceremonies.—The Hindus, Sikhs and Jains cremate their dead. The dead body is bathed, wrapped up in a shroud, is taken to the cremation-ground and put on the pyre. After some religious ceremonies the pyre is lit by the eldest son of the deceased. On the fourth day, called *chautha*, the ashes and *phul* (or charred bones) are collected and immersed in the Ganges at Haridwar (Uttar Pradesh). Among the Sikhs, the ashes are generally immersed in the Satlej at Paltapuri near Kiratpur (District Rupnagar). The mourning period lasts for thirteen days among the Hindus, e.g., and for ten days among the Sikhs.

Among the Muslims and Christians, the dead body is buried in a graveyard after performing some ceremonies.

(iii) Home Life

Dwellings.—The dwellings in the urban areas are almost all pucca and mostly double-storeyed. The newly constructed houses of well-to-do people are mostly of modern designs. The poorer and backward sections of the people generally live in *kachcha* or partly *kachcha* and partly pucca houses in a corner of the town.

The houses in the rural areas are mostly *kachcha*, but those of the well-to-do farmers are pucca and quite commodious. The present tendency on the part of all high-and low-class people is to build pucca houses, provided they can afford to build them. The houses of the cultivators have arrangements for keeping cattle also.

According to the 1971 Census, the total number of houses, shop-cum-residences and workshop-cum-residences including household industries enumerated in the rural and urban areas of the District (including those in the Moga and Muktsar tahsils) are given below :

District	Total number of houses enu- merated in the census	Number of shop-cum- residences	Number of workshop- cum-resi- dences, in- cluding house- hold industries
Firozpur District			
Total	..	3,85,925	4,210
Rural	..	3,00,515	3,665
Urban	..	85,410	545
			840

(Census of India, 1971, Series 17-Punjab, Part IV-Housing Report and Tables pp. 60-61)

The utensils used in the urban areas vary from those of brass to those stainless steel, according to the status and income of the people. The same is the case with respect to the items of crockery. In the rural areas, right from the earthenware utensils to those of aluminium, brass, copper, bronze, etc. are used. Except well-to-do farmers, the crockery items are generally confined to some cheap teacups and saucers. Earthen pitchers are used invariably in every house for fetching and storing water. The well-to-do people have brass pitchers for storing water.

Furniture and Decorations.—In the urban areas, the items of furnishing in a house comprise a sofa-set, a dining-table, dining-chairs, teapoys, *peerhis*, a *divan*, *plangs* (beds heads) and, *nivari* cots, etc. The items to cover the floor are *darris* and druggets. Decoration pieces are framed pictures, wall-calendars, etc. The items of furniture and decoration vary from house to house, according to the status and income of the people. A radio-set or a transistor is a common belonging to the urban areas.

The items of furniture are generally quite simple in the rural areas. There may be *nivari* cots, *moohras* with back or without back, *peerhis* and in some houses one or two chairs along with a small table. The decoration pieces generally include paintings of birds or animals on the interior walls, besides calendars, etc. A radio-set or a transistor is also a common thing. The surplus utensils are decorated in a stylish manner and are placed on a wooden mantel in a room in the interior of the house.

Dress and Ornaments

Dress.—In the urban areas men wear *tahmat* and a shirt, a pair of pyjamas and a shirt or a piece of pantaloons and a shirt in summer and a woollen suit, or a coat, or a blanket or a *chaddar* in winter. In the rural areas, men generally wear a *tahmat* and a shirt or *kurta*. Among Bagris and Bishnois, a *dhoti* and a shirt were commonly worn, but now the *dhoti* has been replaced by the *tahmat*. *Pagri* (turban) is commonly used by men in the villages. The dress of educated persons is practically the same in the urban and rural areas.

The dress of women in the urban areas varies from a *salwar* and a shirt, a blouse and a saree to a *ghagra* and a *choli*. The school-going girls wear a shirt with a *salwar* a shirt with a pair of *churidar-pyjama*, a mini-shirt with a pair of bell-bottomed trousers. The typical dress of women in the Fazilka Tahsil comprising a *ghagra* (a long skirt reaching the ankles) and a small shirt is fast going out of fashion. In the rural areas, women generally wear a *salwar* and a shirt. The Bagri and Bishnoi women wear the *ghagra* with a *choli* or a shirt and usually cover

their face with an *orhani*(headwear). The educated and the school or college-going girls put on the same dress as their counterparts in the urban areas.

Ornaments.—The old type of ornaments and jewellery for the head, forehead, ears, nose, neck, arms and hands, waist, feet and ankles, of women in the district have not totally become extinct. Some of these are still worn by women on important occasions. The ornaments now in common use comprise earrings, *jhumkas*, *topas*, a *koka* for the nose, necklace, a locket, *mangal sutra*, bangles, *karas*, rings etc. The ring forms the only ornaments in common use by men. Earrings are still worn by the elderly men in the rural areas. On festive occasions or fairs, *kanthas*(necklace with large gold covered beads) are worn by the Jats in the rural areas.

Food.—The dietary habits of the people of a certain area are determined by the food items grown there and the habits and the taste of the people. A notable feature of the present trend is that the old difference between the food items, and the habits between the urban and rural people is decreasing day by day. As the staple food, wheat is fast replacing the coarse cereals, such as maize, *bajra* and *jowar*, among the poorer sections of the people in the rural areas. The urban people, however, take vegetables and fruits more freely, as these are easily available in the urban areas all the year round. Of late, the consumption of rice and confectionery including biscuits, bread, etc. is increasing. Sweets are taken by all, according to their means and tastes, especially on festivals. The vegetable oil has to a great extent replaced ghee as a cooking-medium. The well-to-do people, however, use partly ghee and partly vegetable oil. The use of meat and eggs is on the increase, though certain sections of the people may abstain from these items of food on religious grounds. Smoking and consumption of liquor are also on the increase.

Tea and coffee have replaced milk and *lassi* (buttermilk). In summer, people take soft drinks, such as aerated water, syrup, *shikanjbin* (lemon-juice mixed with sweetened water). The use of ice has become very common.

(iv) Communal Life

Fairs and Festivals.—The cultural heritage of the people is reflected in their fairs and festivals which trace their origin from some religious beliefs and are based on a spontaneous mass appeal. There is a chain of functions, fairs and festivals, all the year around, among the Hindus, the Sikhs, the Jains, etc. Some of them signify the change of

seasons and celebrate the anniversaries of incarnations of God, gurus, saints and notable personages. Lohri, Basant, Shivratri, Holi and Hola, Baisakhi, Dussehra, Diwali, etc. are the main festivals. The Sikhs also celebrate the births and martyrdom days of the Gurus. Besides common festivals, the Jains celebrate the birth anniversaries of *Tirthankaras* (prophets), particularly those of Parshvanath and Mahavira.

The Muslim calendar is based on the movements of the moon round the earth. Therefore their festivals rotate throughout the year. There are two festivals, viz. Id-ul-Fitr (the festival of the breaking of the Ramzan fasts) and Id-ul-Zuha (festival of sacrifice). The Christians celebrate the festivals of the New Year Day, Good Friday, Easter and Christmas.

The Republic Day (26th January) and the Independence Day (15th August) are observed as common national days of rejoicing all over the country.

Apart from the above mentioned fairs and festivals, the following local fairs are celebrated in the District :

Serial No.	Name and Place	Date	Remarks
1	Shahidi Mela at Mari Mustafa	March	To commemorate the martyrdom of the Sikh warriors of the first Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46)
2	Shahidi Mela at the Martyrs' Memorial near the Hussainiwala Headworks	23 March	To pay homage to Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, who were cremated on the bank of Satluj on 23 March 1930.
3	Baisakhi at the Martyrs' Memorial on the right bank of the Satluj	13 April	Rural mela of the Punjab farmers on the eve of harvesting the wheat crop

Serial No.	Name and Place	Date	Remarks
4	Shahidi Mela at Saragarhi, Firozpur Cantonment	12 September	A fair to pay homage to 21 Sikh <i>jawans</i> of the Sikh Regiment, who died fighting to the end while defending the Saragarhi Fort in Wazirastan on 12 September 1897
5	Shahidi Mela at Ferozeshah	22 December	A fair to pay homage to the 5,000 brave Punjabis who laid down their lives here while fighting against the British during the First Anglo-Sikh War on 22 December 1845

Games, Sports and Recreations.—Games and recreations are essential for the proper physical development of the young and the old alike. The commonest games among the children are *guli-danda*, *khudo-khundi*, hide-and-seek, glass balls (*batans*), etc. Football, volleyball, hockey, cricket, badminton, tennis, etc. are played by the school and college-going boys and girls. The indoor games include the playing-cards, carom-board, table-tennis, *ludo*, etc. The grown-up among the villagers play *kabaddi*, *saunchi*, have wrestling bouts, etc. The *Bhangra* dance is also popular in the rural areas. It is also performed in schools and colleges at important functions. In the villages, bards and *dhadis* provide entertainment by reciting ballads and popular love romances.

Dramas and cultural shows are held by local dramatic clubs in the towns. Ramlila is also staged for nine days before Dussehra. Cinema has become a common source of entertainment among all classes of people high and low and young and old.

Folk-songs and Cultural Life.—The ideas and sentiments of the people are expressed through folk-songs which reveal the different facets

of life in a certain area. These are sung on different occasions. Some of the folk-songs are common throughout the Punjab. A few folk-songs, peculiar to this District, are given below :—

Sithni (on the occasion of marriages)

Sade tan vehre mudh makai da

Dane tan Mangda udhal gai da

Bhathi tan tapdi nahin

Bhati tan tapdi nahin, nilajyo

Laj tuhanu nahin

Sade tan vehre tana taninda

Larre da peo kana suninda

Aenak latmi pai, nilajyo

Laj tuhanu nahin

Kuri tan saadi tile di tar ae

Munda tan disda koi ghumiār ae

Jori tan phabdi nahin

Jori tan phabdi nahin, nilajyo

Laj tuhanu nahin

Chhe mahine sunyar bathaya

Chandi de gehne te pani pharaya

Pittal paona saai

Pittal paona saai, nilajyo

Laj tuhanu nahin

Purane gehne te rang jharaya

Saadi te bibi de pasand na aya

Naven gharaune saai

Naven gharaune saai, nilajyo

Laj tuhanu nahin

Miscellaneous

Chheti chheti tor yekke nun, assan yar di tareeke jana

Mere yakke ne matak nal turna, kahli aen tan rail charh ja

Uchche tibbe main bhande manjan, utton rirh gai thali

Kaid kara deongi, main deputy di sali

Kaid karan deongi.....

Hal chhadke ke chari nun jana, jat di joon buri

Chal chaliae Chirak de mele, munda tera main chuk laoon

Jat mar giya kamainyan karda, ni aje tere band na bane

Meri rondi na varaie Kartaro, kee bhora ladduan da

English Translation

Sithni (on the occasion of marriage)

In our courtyard, there is a stalk of the maize plant.
The son of the one who has eloped with her paramour asks for grains,
But the parching furnace does not heat up,
O you shameless, why
did you not feel ashamed ?

In our courtyard, the weaving thread is being processed.
We learn that the bridegroom's father is one-eyed.
It is why he uses glasses,
O you shameless, why did you not feel ashamed ?

Our daughter is like a delicate thread of gold,
But the bridegroom looks like a potter.
The couple are misfits, the couple are misfits ;
O you shameless, why did you not feel ashamed ?

For as long as six months, you kept a goldsmith engaged
to get the silver ornaments gold-plated
Brass (ornaments) had better been offered, O you shameless,
Why did you not feel ashamed ?

You got the old ornaments polished,
But our daughter did not like them ;
You ought to have prepared new ones, O you shameless,
Why did you not feel ashamed ?

Drive the *ekka* fast; I am to appear as a witness for my lover in the Court
My *ekka* has to move at its own moderate and graceful speed;
if you are in a hurry, board the train.

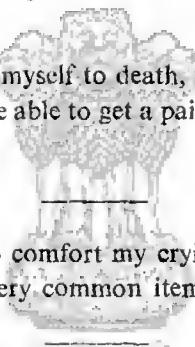
I was cleaning my utensils on a mound, from which a salver rolled down,
 I shall get you imprisoned, I am a sister-in-law of the Deputy
 Commissioner
 I shall get you imprisoned,

After ploughing, he has to go for cutting the *chari* (sorghum) fodder,
 the lot of a Jat is indeed hard.

Let us go to the Chirak Fair, I will carry your child.

Although the Jat (as a tiller of the soil) toiled himself to death, so
 meagre are the returns from agriculture that a Jat, addressing his wife,
 says ruefully :

“Although I have toiled myself to death, yet I have not been able to
 save even so little as to be able to get a pair of gold bracelets prepared
 for you.”



No one came forward to comfort my crying (daughter) Kartaro even
 with a little *laddus* (a very common item of confectionery)

(e) Rehabilitation

The communal riots, which accompanied the partition of the country in 1947, compelled the minority communities on both sides of the border to leave their ancestral homes. After 15 August 1947, people started migrating by trains, bullock-carts and other kinds of vehicles, and even on foot, carrying with them essential portable household items, ready cash and valuables. At many places, the trains and caravans were looted and the helpless migrants were killed in thousands. The Firozpur District, situated as it is on the border of Pakistan, the refugees poured into it from the sides of Hussainiwala, Jalalabad, Fazilka and Abohar. They belonged mostly to the Lahore and Montgomery districts and the Bahawalpur State. To begin the refugees were housed in camps at different places where they were provided with food, shelter, clothing, bedding, medical aid, etc. Soon after, steps were taken to rehabilitate the rural and urban people by making available to them the means to pursue their respective occupations.

Rural Rehabilitation

Temporary Allotment of Land.—At first, temporary allotment of the evacuee agricultural land was made to the displaced persons soon after their arrival in the District. Loans were advanced for purchasing bullocks, agricultural implements, etc. The displaced persons, depending upon agriculture, were asked to approach the tahsil authorities in groups in which they desired to live in the villages. All those who were either land-owners or cultivators or had been at any time cultivating land in Pakistan, were eligible for the allotment of land. The allotment was subject to the payment of land revenue cesses and water rates and of rent, if any, due from the evacuee owners.

Quasi-permanent Allotment of Land.—Displaced persons from the districts of Montgomery and Lahore, besides their own colonists were settled in the Firozpur District. The temporary allotment of land, made before April 1948, was replaced by the quasi-permanent allotment with a view to giving a sense of permanence to the allottees. For this purpose, those possessing agricultural land in Pakistan were required to file their claims. These claims were verified from the records obtained from the Pakistan Government on reciprocal basis. Thereafter, land was allotted on a quasi-permanent basis. The land left by the Muslim evacuees in the East Punjab was barely 62 per cent of the area left in Pakistan by the non-Muslim migrants. A formula of graded cuts, was, therefore, evolved, whereby the small landowners were affected less and the bigger landlords were subjected to drastic cuts.

Besides, *taccavi* loans were advanced for purchasing bullocks, agricultural implements, fodder, seeds, tractors, for installing tube-wells, and for repairing wells and houses. As far as possible, loans were advanced in kind to eliminate misuse. The total amount of loans thus advanced in the District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972), from 1947-48 to 1953-54, was Rs 67,20,320.

Conferment of Proprietary Rights.—Started in 1955-56, the work of transferring permanent proprietary rights to the quasi-permanent allottees of agricultural land was completed in 1963-64.

Garden Colonies.—The Garden Colonies Scheme, which was a part of the general rural resettlement plan, helped the Government to add more area to that already under gardens. These colonies were established in 11 out of then 13 districts of the Punjab on fertile blocks of evacuee lands on the roadside. Each allottee was given either a unit of 20 acres or

half a unit of 10 acres. Allotment in the Garden Colonies was made in lieu of the area allottable under the quasi-permanent allotment scheme. Those who received allotments in the Garden Colonies had this area deducted from their total allotments. Provision was made in these colonies for all modern facilities, such as tractors and power-spraying for saving the fruit-trees from insect pests and diseases, sanitary houses on modern lines, community dining-halls, schools, creches for children, dispensaries, guest-houses, clubs and reading-rooms.

Two such Garden Colonies were set up in the Firozepur District as under:

Tahsil	Name of colony	Area in acres	The number of allottees
Fazilka	Balluana	1,021	55
Zira	Jalalabad	548	26

Rural Housing.—Every allottee, who was holding more than one allottable house or site was to be allowed to retain one house and one site free of cost. All other houses or sites were to be offered to the allottees on sale at the reserve price, provided those were surplus to the requirements of the other land allottees of the village. In the event of their refusal to purchase the extra houses or sites, these were to be retrieved and put to auction through the Tehsildar, Sales. The rent with respect to surplus properties was also to be recovered from the allottees from the date of allotment to the date of cancellation.

All houses up to the value of Rs 10,000, allotted up to 31 December, 1957, to the non-claimant displaced persons and to the non-displaced persons were to be transferred to them at the reserve price and, in the event of their refusal to purchase them, these were disposed of in open auction, if not required for allotment to the unsatisfied claimants. Houses, which were being used for common purposes, were transferred to the village *panchayats* at the reserve price plus the up-to-date rent, if they so liked otherwise, these were put to auction.

Houses up to the value of Rs 1,000, originally belonging to the Muslim labourers and artisan and which were occupied by Harijans and the members of the Backward Classes, were transferred to them at a concessional rate of Rs 20 each for the superstructure and at Rs 10 for the site beneath, if the land also belonged to the evictee labourers. Each family was to get only one house at the concessional rate, whereas all other houses in its possession were to be transferred to it at the reserve price.

The houses, surplus to the requirement of land allottees or which were not purchased by their occupants, were put to open auction. Plots given to the agricultural labourers and artisan for building purposes in the model villages were transferred to them at Rs 10 per site. Similarly, plots allotted to shopkeepers in these villages were transferred to them at the reserve price.

Urban Rehabilitation

Advancing of Loans.—The problem of setting the urban class of refugees was more difficult and complicated than that of the rural migrants. These refugees comprised professionals, artisans, traders, shopkeepers and those engaged in industry. The Government of India granted loans to persons intending to start their own workshops, cottage industries, factories, etc. and other professionals, such as *ravids*, *hakims*, homeopaths, lawyers, etc. These loans were advanced by the authorities of the district in which the persons decided to settle. The advance was free of interest for the first year and at the rate of 3 per cent for the subsequent years.

In the Firozpur District (including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils) Rs 19,31,252 was advanced as small urban loans to the displaced persons during 1948-49 to 1956-57 under the East Punjab Refugees Rehabilitation (Loans and Grants) Act, 1948.

Allotment of Immovable Property.—The Government also undertook to rehabilitate the urban population. The properties left by the Muslims evacuees in the urban areas were taken over as evacuee properties under the Punjab Evacuee Ordinance IV of 1947, later replaced by the Evacuee Property Act, 1950. The available houses, shops, etc. were allotted to the displaced persons on temporary basis. The permanent allotment and disposal began in 1953-54. The properties of the value less than Rs 10,000 (Rs 50,000 in the case of industrial establishments) were allottable, whereas properties above Rs 10,000 were disposed by auction.

Grant of Compensation.—Another important work was the grant of compensation by the Government to the displaced persons for the urban immovable properties left by them in Pakistan. Under the Displaced Persons Claims Act, 1950, steps were taken to verify claims with respect to these properties.

To avoid unnecessary delay, an Interim Compensation was sanctioned in 1953. Under this scheme, payments were made to certain high priority categories of displaced persons, including those drawing

maintenance allowance, disabled persons and T.B. patients. The payment of compensation actually started from 1954.

The Interim Compensation Scheme was later on replaced by the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954. A final scale for payment of compensation was approved under that Act in 1955. This scale was so devised as to pay proportionately more to the smaller claimants and less to the bigger claimants. Under the scheme, applications were invited in 1955 from all the remaining claimants who had not been compensated on priority basis. By 1964, 97½ per cent of the cases were settled.

Education

On the partition of the country in 1947, the educational institutions in the Province were closed for housing in their buildings the refugees who came from Pakistan. The schools and colleges were, thus utilised by the Rehabilitation Department till the time the refugees could be settled or concentrated in camps. Since there was an acute shortage of social workers, employees or volunteers, the school and college-going boys and girls were deputed for social service. They were to perform multifarious duties in the camps from dawn to dusk with a missionary zeal. Their education was, however, not considered disrupted and matriculation certificates and higher degrees were conferred on the students who had served in the camps for at least three months. Those who did not avail themselves of this concession were given exemption from one subject in the examination. The candidates, who had not performed any social service, had to appear in the examination held by the Panjab University.

The schools and colleges opened throughout the Punjab State in March 1948. The academic year was to end in September 1948, after which the next session commenced and it ended in March 1949. This was done with a view to avoiding the loss of an academic year. This arrangement also affected the local population equally.

No fees were charged in the schools. The examination fees charged were also returned to the students. Regular grants were given to poor students. In colleges, the refugee students were given loans to enable them to prosecute their studies. Such loans were all the more essential in the case of students admitted to the professional and technical institutions. The loans were to be repaid in easy instalments after the completion of the courses of studies. The deserving and intelligent students were granted liberal stipends.

APPENDIX

Vide page 66

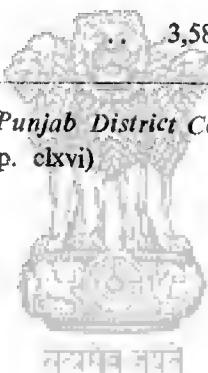
**Displaced persons from Pakstan who on the partition of country
in 1947, settled in the Firozpur District (including the Moga and
Muktsar tahsils, transferred to Faridkot District in 1972)**

District of origin (Pakistan East and West)	Persons	Males	Females
Lahore ..	1,22,224	66,207	56,017
Sialkot ..	2,042	1,264	778
Gujranwala ..	3,495	1,908	1,587
Sheikhupura ..	11,090	5,986	5,104
Gujrat ..	992	551	441
Shahpur ..	3,305	1,032	1,973
Jhelum ..	703	339	364
Rawalpindi ..	1,052	389	663
Attock ..	1,194	306	888
Mianwali ..	1,516	795	721
Montgomery ..	1,44,022	76,779	67,243
Lyallpur ..	17,960	9,576	8,381
Jhang ..	737	311	426
Multan ..	7,475	3,961	3,514
Muzaffargarh ..	796	433	363
Dera Ghazi Khan ..	1,622	831	791
Baluch Frontier Tract ..	4	—	4
Gurdaspur (Shakargarh Tahsil transferred to Pakistan in 1947) ..	158	117	41
Dadu ..	193	122	71
Hyderabad ..	88	77	11

District of origin (Pakistan East and West)		Persons	Males	Females
Karachi	..	327	263	64
Larkana	..	11	6	5
Nawabshah	..	402	283	119
Sukkur	..	20	1	19
Upper Sind Frontier	..	333	143	190
Hazara	..	31	11	20
Mardan	..	18	12	6
Peshawar	..	642	410	232
Kohat	..	156	58	98
Bannu	..	150	75	75
Dera Ismail Khan	..	187	125	62
Quetta	..	232	140	92
Lora Lai	..	15	13	2
Zhob	نکھلہ نہیں	9	9	—
Bulan	..	11	11	—
Chagai	..	59	59	—
Sibi	..	55	54	1
Kalat	..	3	3	—
Kharan	..	14	14	—
Bahawalpur	..	34,030	19,315	14,715
Tippera	..	13	1	12
Rajshahi	..	1	1	—
Pabna	..	534	534	—
Dacca	..	11	—	11

District of origin (Pakistan East and West)		Persons	Males	Females
Faridpur	..	3	3	—
Noakhli	..	2	2	—
Silhet (Assam)	..	1	1	—
Baluchistan	..	17	17	—
Sind	..	686	367	319
Total	..	3,58,341	1,92,918	1,65,423

(Census of India, 1951, Punjab District Census Hand Book, Volume I,
Firozpur District, D-V, p. clxvi)



CHAPTER IV

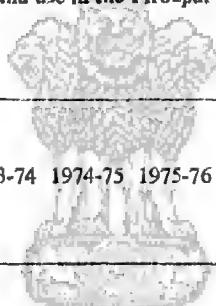
AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

(a) Land Reclamation and Utilization

(i) **Land Utilisation.**—The utilization of land in a region or a particular area depends largely upon its physical, cultural and economic environments. It is governed by such factors as the configuration of land, amount and distribution of rainfall, fertility of the soil, density of population and the dietary habits of the people, number and types of draught and domestic animals, agricultural practices followed, stage of industrial development, transport facilities and the demand for its produce. Any change in these factors results in a corresponding change in land utilization.

The following table gives the classification of the area by land use in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1978-79:

Classification of area by land use in the Firozpur District, 1972-73 to 1978-79

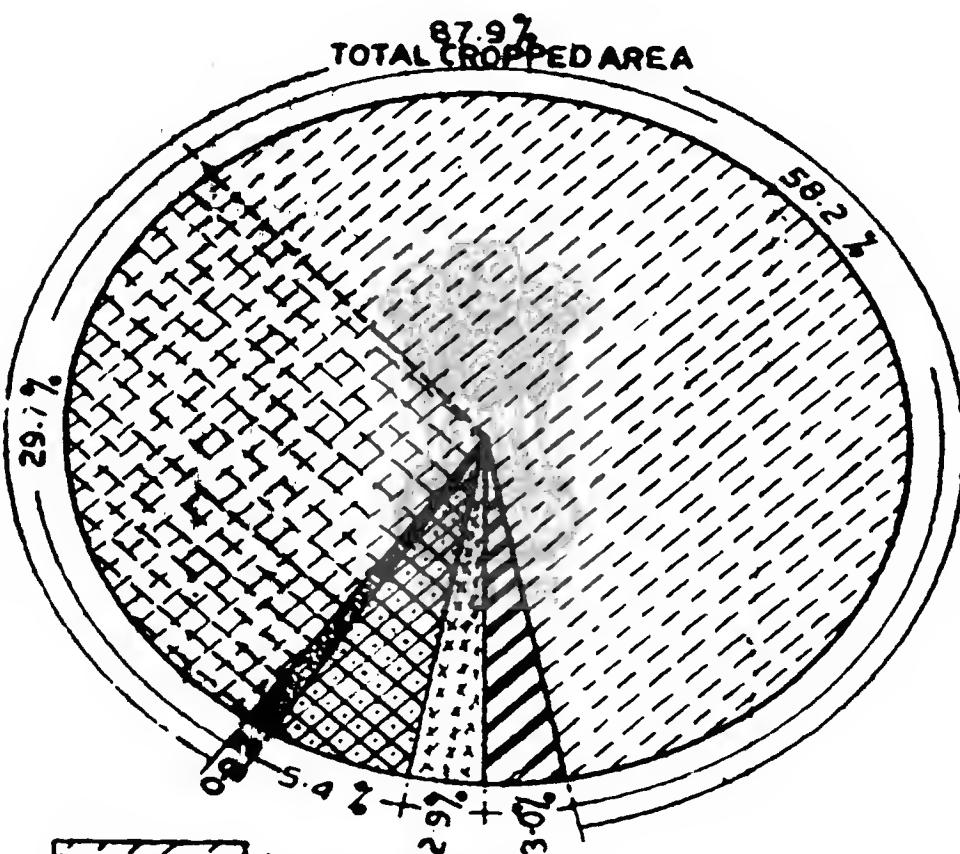


(Thousand hectares)

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
1 Total area according to village papers ..	586	586	586	586	586	586	586	586
2 Area under forests ..	7	7	7	7	6	7	6	7
3 Land not available for cultivation ..	47	46	46	44	46	45	45	45
4 Other uncultivated land excluding fallow land ..	27	25	25	24	24	25	25	24
5 Fallow land ..	26	25	42	26	30	25	23	25
6 Net area sown ..	479	483	466	485	480	484	487	485
7 Area sown more than once ..	145	166	154	226	225	224	265	247
8 Total cropped area (6×7) ..	624	649	620	711	705	708	752	732

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1973 to 1980)

**CLASSIFICATION OF AREA BY LAND USE
IN
FIROZPUR DISTRICT
1979- 80**



NET AREA SOWN



AREA SOWN MORE THAN ONCE

FALLOW LAND

OTHER UNCULTIVATED LAND EXCLUDING
FALLOW LAND

LAND NOT AVAILABLE FOR CULTIVATION

AREA UNDER FOREST

SOURCE :- STATISTICAL ABSTRACT OF PUNJAB, 1980.

Area not available for cultivation comprises absolutely barren and uncultivable land and land put to non-agricultural uses, such as land under buildings, roads and canals. The total area of such land in the District was 45 thousand hectares in 1978-79. Other uncultivated land, excluding the fallow land, comprises cultivable wastes, grazing-land and land under tree groves, not included under the area sown.

Land is termed as 'cultivated' if it has been sown even once during the previous four harvests. The cultivated area thus comprises the fallow land and the net area sown. Such land in the District measured 510 thousand hectares in 1978-79.

(ii) **Cultivable Waste.**—The cultivable waste land includes all lands available for cultivation, but not taken up for cultivation or abandoned after a few years for one reason or another. Such land may be fallow for more than 5 years and may be covered with shrubs and jungles. It may be assessed or unassessed and may lie in isolated patches or blocks or among cultivated holdings. The land reserved for pastures is not included under this head. The total area of such land in the District was 25 thousand hectares in 1978-79.

Most of cultivable waste is the village common land, which is in the possession of the village *panchayat*. Some of the *panchayats* have started direct cultivation, but still large areas remain uncultivated and are being used by the villagers for grazing their cattle. The *panchayats* are trying to bring such land under cultivation and, to facilitate its cultivation, loans, are advanced by the Government to the *panchayats* for purchasing tractors and agricultural implements and for sinking wells and tube-wells.

(iii) **Reclamation of Waterlogged Areas, Swamps, etc.**—Canal irrigation is a mixed blessing and suffers from a serious defect. An abundant supply of water from the canals for irrigation not only leads to the waste of water, but also causes waterlogging and infestation with salts in several areas, especially on both sides of the canals. The heavy rains during 1955 and 1958 also caused waterlogging on a wide scale in the Zira, Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils. Waterlogging renders land unfit for cultivation. The problem was very acute in the beginning, but it has lessened to a great extent through the digging of drains by the Government to drain away the surplus water.

The area under *thur* (salinity) and *sem* (waterlogging) in the District during 1973 to 1980 is given below :

(Hectares)

Year	For Rabi Crop		
	Thur	Sem	Total
1973	5,073	29	5,102
1974	5,062	2	5,064
1975	5,172	2	5,174
1976	5,331	2	5,333
1977	5,287	2	5,289
1978	5,299	2	5,301
1979	5,294	1,005	6,299
1980	5,682	2,787	8,469

(Source : Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Punjab)

(b) Irrigation

(i) Rainfall.—Rainfall in India is erratic, with a considerable variation not only in the year-to-year distribution, but also during the year and with regard to the quantity, incidence and duration.

In the Firozpur District, the rainfall varies between wide limits. There is a marked tendency for the rainfall to decrease as one progresses westwards. The monsoon generally does not commence till the end of June, most of the rainfall occurs in July and August and the early monsoon showers are often extremely local. The important September rains are uncertain, especially in the western part of the District. Usually, there is but little rain between the beginning of October and the end of December, but about 2.28 centimetres of it usually falls in January and February. The rainfall, especially in the form of winter rains and the early monsoon showers, is often very local.

Variations in the timings of rainfall affect the sowing and the harvesting of crops, particularly those of the crops of the *kharif* season. A fair amount of rainfall towards the end of June or in the beginning of July leads to an all-round sowing activity. A failure of rains in the second half of July and also in August, followed by that in September,

leads to the crops being scorched by sun. However, with the extension of irrigation facilities after Independence, the failure of crops for want of rains in the District is becoming a thing of the past. The following table gives the rainfall in the Firozpur District during 1973 to 1979 :

Rainfall in the Firozpur District during 1973 to 1979

Year	Annual rainfall (cm)	Rainfall during the months of			
		July (cm)	August (cm)	September (cm)	October (cm)
1973	..	53.16	13.80	17.53	2.80
1974	..	17.20	5.78	5.28	0.66
1975	..	34.97	9.49	10.04	5.52
1976	..	76.38	9.40	41.64	15.00
1977	..	46.48	9.38	6.58	12.70
1978	..	38.65	9.70	8.25	8.10
1979	..				0.02

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab 1974 to 1980)

(ii) **Irrigation Facilities.**—The handicap resulting from inadequate and uncertain rainfall necessitates irrigation by artificial means for sowing, growing and proper maturing of the crops or for increasing their yields. Recourse is, thus, had to the river canals—known as major irrigation—and the utilization of subsoil water through percolation wells, tube-wells and pumping-sets—known as minor irrigation. Irrigation has, therefore, been given top priority in the country's programme of planned development since 1951. In 1979-80, the area irrigated by canals and wells was 49.1 and 49.3 per cent respectively of the net area sown in the District. The major source of irrigation is, therefore, wells, including percolation wells, tube-wells and pumping-sets, closely followed by canals.

The following table shows the area irrigated in the District from different sources of irrigation, during 1972-73 to 1979-80:

Net area under irrigation in Ferozpur District, 1972-73 to 1979-80

(Thousand hectares)

Source	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Government canals ..	198.4	196.3	196.3	229.9	229.1	246.1	213.3	214.0
Wells ..	143.7	145.6	145.6	139.8	141.5	150.0	190.9	215.0
Other sources ..	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5
Total ..	343.6	343.4	343.4	370.0	371.3	396.4	404.6	429.5

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

Canals

The three main canal irrigation systems in the District are: Sirhind Canal System, Grey Canal System and Eastern Canal System. Each of these is under a superintending engineer, assisted by a number of executive engineers and subdivisional engineers. All these systems emanate from the Satluj.

Sirhind Canal System.—This is the oldest system and takes its supply from the Rupnagar Headworks. Previously, the channels of this system used to irrigate the areas between Ludhiana and Fazilka on the left side of the Bikaner Canal. Subsequently, owing to the construction of the Sirhind Feeder, some parts of the Abohar Branch, Bathinda Branch and a number of distributaries, offtaking from this system, have been transferred to the Sirhind Feeder, which takes its supply from the Harike Headworks and irrigates Fazilka and Abohar area lying to the east of the Bikaner Canal. The area falling on the north-east of Sirhind Feeder gets supplies through Abohar Branch Upper, and Bathinda Branch of Sirhind Canal System.

Grey Canal System.—The Grey Canals were originally inundation channels carrying water from the Satluj for irrigating intermittent patches where irrigation could be possible, mostly adjoining the River. Some of these channels have been linked with the Sidhwan Branch. The remaining inundation channels have been remodelled and renamed as Makhu Canal System, fed by the Makhu Canal, off-taking from the Harike Headworks. This system now covers the Zira Tahsil, except the portion which has been taken up by the Sidhwan Branch, and a part of the Firozpur Tahsil. The Firozpur Feeder also offtakes from the Harike Headworks.

The Butewah Distributary and the Barneswah Distributary (offtaking from Makhu Canal) and Mayawah Distributary and Sodhi Nagar (Sultan Khanwala) Distributary (offtaking from Firozpur Feeder) were collectively called the Grey Canal System. Previously, these channels used to run during the rainy season only, but now they get regular non-perennial supply.

Eastern Canal System.—It serves the area between the Bikaner Canal and the Satluj River, extending from the Fizozpur Headworks to the Sulemanki Headworks. No irrigation is being done in the Punjab from the Bikaner Canal, as it is meant for irrigating the areas falling in the Rajasthan State. The Eastern Canal irrigates some area of the Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils.

Wells

As assured irrigation is the key to agricultural production, the State Government has assigned top priority to the tapping of underground water through wells, tube-wells and pumping-sets. These minor irrigation works are more dependable and can profitably be extended to areas beyond the reach of canal irrigation. Moreover, such works help to reduce waterlogging by keeping down the subsoil water-table. The number of tube-wells and pumping-sets and percolation wells in the District is given below:—

Item	1972-73	1975-76	1979-80
Tube-wells and pumping-sets	3,678	4,255	9,042
Percolation wells	4,132	4,132	4,132

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1976, 1978 and 1980)

(c) Agriculture, including Horticulture

(i) Set-up and activities of the Department of Agriculture.—The Department of Agriculture is represented in the District by the Chief Agricultural Officer, Firozpur, who is under the control of the Director of Agriculture, Punjab, Chandigarh. The Chief Agricultural Officer is overall in charge of the entire agricultural operations in the District. He is wholly responsible for preparing and executing agricultural plans in the District and is assisted by 12 agricultural officers, 52 agricultural inspectors and 45 agricultural sub inspectors, besides ministerial and class IV staff.

To look after plant protection work, an assistant plant protection officer is posted at Abohar under the direct control of the Deputy Director (Locust Control and Plant Protection), Punjab, Chandigarh. He is assisted by 4 plant-protection inspectors, posted at Abohar, Zira, Fazilka and Firozpur.

Three assistant soil-conservation officers are posted at Firozpur, Fazilka and Zira. Their work is supervised by the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Firozpur. Besides, 15 agricultural inspectors/soil conservation inspectors are posted all over the District to attend to the soil conservation work. In addition to these, a circle office headed by the Conservator of Soils is also located at Firozpur.

(ii) **Intensive Agricultural District Programme.**—The Intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP), which was initiated in India, in the early sixties, was the first organized experiment on a scale, large enough to introduce such a modernizing process in India. Unlike the older Community Development Programme, the IADP was designed specially to promote a rapid increase in the yields of foodgrain crops and to show how this could be achieved through work in one selected district in each of India's States. Its major emphasis was, therefore, on the cultivator and not—as in the Community Development Programme—on the village as a whole. The support for the IADP came from the Government of India, assisted by the Ford Foundation, the US-AID, the Co-operative League of America, and the government agencies from Japan, West Germany and Denmark.

The Intensive Agricultural District Programme, thus, envisages to accelerate the pace of agricultural development by concentrating financial, technical and administrative resources in the potential areas by securing a proper co-ordination of various agencies concerned with agricultural production. The main object of this programme is to increase agricultural production so as to provide more food for the increasing population. The programme also aims at providing the cultivator with all the necessary inputs he needs at the right time and in sufficient quantities for increasing the productivity of his farm.

The Punjab Government extended the Intensive Agricultural District Programme during 1971-72 to the districts of Firozpur and Sangrur. Originally, this programme was started in the Ludhiana District in April 1961 as a pilot programme to learn and demonstrate how the rate of agricultural development could be accelerated. The IADP, Ludhiana has shown that the so-called tradition-bound Indian farmer is ready to adopt innovations. It has also demonstrated that the dependence of agriculture on nature can be shifted towards a sure and stable process by adopting scientific methods.

Under the Intensive Agricultural District Programme, the Pilot Project Officer was put in charge of the Department at the district level. In the Firozpur District, he was re-designated as the Chief Agricultural Officer with effect from 11 February 1972.

(iii) **Soils, Climate and Crops.**—The cropping pattern of an area is based on its soil and climate. The crops, which suit a particular type of soil and climate, are sown there. The present trend is, however, to sow high-yielding and more paying crops.

Soils.—The soils of Firozpur are mostly sandy loam and definitely alkaline. Some of them are fairly rich in total potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen¹.

Three types of soil are found in the District, as detailed below:

Bet Land.—The *bet* land extends along the Satluj River in the form of a belt, starting right from the place the River enters the Firozpur District near Makhu in the Zira Tahsil and ends near Fazilka towards the Sulemanki Headworks. This belt is about 5 to 10 km in width and 160 km in length, covering partially the Zira, Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils of the District. This belt comprises two types of soils, viz. clayey soils and clayey-loam soils. Patches of *kallar* are also seen here and there in this area.

Clayey soils are very hard and sloppy, when wet, with a heavy weed infestation, particularly with *sarkanda* and the *khabhal* grass. This type of land is very fertile and grows very good crops, such as rice, sugarcane, wheat and the *kharif* and *rabi* fodders, such as *charhi* (sorghum), maize and *herseem*. The main irrigation system is of seasonal canals, but the means of minor irrigation also exist.

The clayey-loam soils have generally been formed where the River dropped its silt by overflowing its banks during the rainy season. These soils are very fertile and grow all sorts of crops, including wheat, gram, barley, *herseem* during the *rabi* season and sugarcane, cotton, paddy and *charhi* during the *kharif* season.

(2) **Maira Land.**—The *maira* land is neither clayey nor sandy. In the soils of this type of land, there is usually an equal proportion of sand and clay. In the Firozpur District, these soils are mainly found in the Fazilka Tahsil. This belt is situated between the sandy belt lying along Rajasthan and the Hisar District (Haryana) on the one side towards the south and the *bet* belt of the Satluj River towards the north on the other side. This belt is considered to be the heart of the District and is mainly irrigated by the perennial canals running from the Rupnagar and Harike Headworks.

(3) **Sandy or 'Tibba' Soils.**—This belt of land is situated along the border of Rajasthan and the Hisar District. The land is mainly sandy and is poor in fertility. Most of the crops in this tract depend upon rain for their growth. The main crops grown are gram, barley and *taramira* in the *rabi* and *jowar*, *bajra* and *guara* during the *kharif*.

¹M.S. Randhawa, etc., *Farmers of India*, Vol. I. (New Delhi, 1959), p.35

Major and Subsidiary Crops.—There are two main growing seasons, viz. *kharif* and *rabi*, locally named *sawni* and *harhi*. The *kharif* season covers the summer months and the crops grown during this period are harvested in the autumn. The *rabi* season covers the winter months and the crops grown during this period are harvested in the spring. In between these two main seasons, additional crops are raised where conditions permit. These are known as *zaid kharif* and *zaid rabi* crops. *Toria* is a *zaid kharif* crop, whereas tobacco, onion, spring potato and early *jowar* are *zaid rabi* crops.

The principal *kharif* crops are paddy, cotton, maize and sugarcane, whereas the minor ones or subsidiary crops are vegetables, such as tomato, water-melon, brinjal, lady's finger (*bhindi*), *kharif* pulses and fruits. The principal *rabi* crops are wheat, gram, barley and *berseem*, whereas the minor *rabi* crops are *rabi* oilseeds (*sarson*, *taramira*, *alsi* and *toria*) and winter vegetables, such as peas, cabbage, turnip, carrot and *lobia*.

Cotton (*desi* and American) is the main cash crop in the District and the farmers are bringing more and more area under its cultivation.

Detailed particulars regarding the area under different crops and their total production in the District from 1972-73 to 1979-80 are given in Appendices I and II at the end of the chapter.

Wheat

Wheat is an important major *rabi* crop of the District. The sowing of the crop begins as early as the third week of October and continues up to the end of December. The crop is mainly sown in November. It requires about 4 to 5 months to mature and is harvested in April. When there is an abrupt change in the weather, the crop matures early and is harvested early.

Paddy

Paddy is an important *kharif* crop; it is a semi-aquatic plant, requiring an abundant supply of water for its growth. It is mainly grown in Zira, Firozpur and in some parts of Fazilka, which are waterlogged to a considerable extent. Its nursery is sown in May and June and is transplanted in the end of June and in the beginning of July.

Bajra

Bajra is the major *kharif* crop. It is sown between the end of June and the beginning of July and is harvested in October-November. It is mostly cultivated in the Fazilka Tahsil.

Maize

Maize is also an important major *kharif* crop. It is generally sown during June to August and is harvested in October—December.

Cotton

Cotton is an important *kharif* crop of the District and is sown between April and May and is harvested between October and December. The Firozpur District is associated with the cultivation of cotton, chiefly with that of the long-staple cotton which is known in local parlance as *Amrikan kapah*. The soil and climate of the District are very much suited to this crop and its cultivation received a great fillip after the country's partition in 1947, when it became deficit in this commodity. Cotton (*desi*) is sown a bit earlier and is also picked earlier, whereas the American cotton is picked later.

Sorghum (*Chari*)

Sorghum is a fodder crop and is sown from the middle of March to the end of July. Its harvesting starts from May and continues till December. It is ready to be used as a fodder about a month and a half after sowing.

Barley

Barley is also an important major *rabi* crop. It is sown from the middle of September to the end of December and is harvested in the first fortnight of April. It is raised either alone or mixed with other crops. It can be used as a fodder after the middle of March.

Pulses

The pulses grown in the District are gram, *moong*, *mash*, *moth* and *masar*. The most important of them all is gram which is sown as a *rabi* crop at the end of the rainy season in the beginning of October.

Barseem

Berseem or Persian clover is a *rabi* fodder crop and is sown from the middle of September to the middle of October and its cuttings are taken till the end of June.

Sugarcane

Sugarcane is a long-duration crop, occupying the land for 10—12 months, subject to the variations necessitated by local conditions, rainfall, irrigation facilities, climate, etc. It is planted from the middle of February to the middle of March and is harvested between December and April. It is not an important crop in the District and is grown mostly in the *bet* areas.

Oilseeds

Rape and mustard are the most important oilseeds grown in the Fazilka Tahsil of the District.

Vegetables.—To augment the production of vegetables in the District, the Department of Agriculture has posted one Agricultural Inspector (Vegetables) at Abohar to guide the farmers in vegetables-growing and to make necessary arrangements for vegetable seeds. Demonstration plots of different kinds of vegetables have been set up in selected villages to demonstrate the superior performance of good-quality seeds. Training camps are organized in different blocks to train the farmers in vegetable-farming.

The area under vegetables has increased considerably, because of the ceiling on land holdings and because of the increase in facilities with respect to irrigation. A rise in the sale price of celery has also increased the area under it. Vegetables are, in fact, the most paying crops for small farmers.

The total area under vegetables in the District in 1979-80 was about 2,112 hectares. Almost all the vegetables of the plains, as detailed below, are sown in the District :

Summer Vegetables.—Chillies (*mirch*), lady's-finger (*bhindi*), bottle-gourd (*ghia kaddu*), vegetable-marrow (*chappan kaddu*), squash melon (*tinda*), bitter-gourd (*karela*), pumpkin (*halwa kaddu*), sponge-gourd (*ghia or kali tori*), ash-gourd (*petha*), musk-melon (*sarda kharbuza*), water melon (*tarbuz*), long-melon (*tar*), tomato (*tamatar*), arum (*arbi*), sweet potato (*shakarkandi*), and brinjal (*baingan*), long and round.

Winter Vegetables.—Potato (*ahu*), cauliflower (*phul gobhi*), cabbage (*band gobhi*), knol khol (*gandh gobhi*), peas (*matar*), radish (*muli*), turnip (*shalgam*), carrot (*gajar*), spinach (*palak*), fenugreek (*methi*), onion (*piaz*) and garlic (*lasan*).

Fruit Crops and Gardens.—As the overwhelming majority of the people in India partake chiefly of the vegetarian diet, the cultivation of fruits is considered to be great importance. The food value of fruits has been recognized well and the fruits have become an essential part of a complete or a balanced diet. Fruits are generally rich in carbohydrates and proteins, which are essential for the maintenance of life and for the growth of the body. They are also very rich in vitamins which directly influence the metabolism and growth of the body.

Citrus in the Firozpur District occupies the largest area under fruits in the State. Of late, grape cultivation has also become popular. The Abohar Sub-Tahsil is particularly suitable for grapes on account of the dry climate and the late onset of monsoon rains. The area under fruits in the District during 1979-80, was about 8,417 hectares.

The amount of loans advanced for grape cultivation in the District from 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year	Amount of loan advanced for grape cultivation (Rs)
1972-73	20,000
1973-74	85,000
1974-75	—
1975-76	—
1976-77	—
1977-78	—
1978-79	—
1979-80	—

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

Regional Fruit Research Station, Abohar

The Regional Fruit Research Station at Abohar is in the charge of a senior horticulturist. Date is not grown commercially in any part of India, except in parts of the Kutch District of the Gujarat State. About four crore rupees' worth of dates of certain varieties are imported from Iraq and Iran. In view of this situation, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research launched in 1954-55 a co-ordinated scheme for the development of date cultivation. The Town of Abohar situated in the heart of the arid irrigated zone, was selected for the purpose. For the first ten years, this project was financed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Later on, it came under the control of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

As many as 49 varieties of dates have been introduced from various countries, including the USA, Egypt, Muscat and Pakistan. In 1980, 34 varieties, including the leading varieties of the world existed at the Research Station at Abohar. This collection is stated to be unique and the biggest of its kind in India.

The station has a very comprehensive collection of citrus species or cultivars. In 1980, about 180 species or varieties existed at the Research Station. Kinnow, which was imported from the USA, when put on trial proved to be the best variety and has been taken up commercially during the past few years. Besides, about 250 varieties of grapes—mostly of the *vinifera* group—collected and screened at this station, a number of them, such as Perpetta, Delight, Thompson, Seedless, Cardinal, Beauty Seedless, Kishmish Charni, have shown promise. This station was the first to set up three grape training systems, namely, the Arbour System, the Telephone System and the Kniffin System.

(iv) Improved Agricultural Practices

The rapid rise in agricultural development and production since Independence has been due to the introduction of high-yielding varieties of crops, the adoption of improved cultural practices (such as greater and better use of fertilizers and deep ploughing, crop rotation, green-manuring, the use of compost and farm-yard manure, bacterial cultures, the inclusion of leguminous crops in rotations, the sowing of crops by using the *ora* method, the line-sowing of cotton, the trench-sowing of sugarcane and the use of improved furnaces for *gur*-making, and installation of tube-wells and pumping-sets.

The high-yielding varieties of different crops sown in the District are as under :

Name of crop	Variety
Paddy	I.R.—8, Jaya, P.R.—106
Wheat	.. WL-711, HD-2009, KSML-3, Solalika, WG-357, WG-377, WL-1562
Bajra	.. HB No. 1
Maize	Ganga No. 5, Vijay, Ageti 76
Cotton	.. Bikaneri, F-414, J-27, J-34

(v) Crop Competition Scheme

With a view to promoting a spirit of healthy rivalry among the cultivators for maximizing the yields of important crops per hectare through the use of improved agricultural practices, the Crop-Competition Scheme was introduced into the District in 1951-52. Every year, crop competitions are organized at the village, tahsil, district and State levels.

(vi) **Agricultural Co-operatives.**

Various developmental activities in agriculture, small industry, marketing and processing, distribution and supplies are now carried on through co-operatives. The co-operatives in the State have made an all-round progress and their role in, and contribution to agricultural progress has particularly been significant. The schemes regarding the construction of godowns and the conversion of villages into model villages have assumed great importance in the wake of the Green Revolution.

The Co-operative Movement was introduced into India by the Government as the only method by which the farmers could overcome their burden of debt and keep them away from the clutches of the money-lenders. The Co-operative Credit Societies Act, 1904 was passed by the Government of India and rural credit societies were formed. Through the appointment of registrars and through vigorous propaganda, the Government attempted to popularize the Movement in the rural areas. Within a short period, the Government realized some of the shortcomings of the 1904 Act and, therefore, passed a more comprehensive Act, known as the Co-operative Societies Act of 1912. This Act recognized non-credit societies also. But the rural credit societies have continued to be predominant till now.

(1) **The Primary Agricultural Credit/Service Societies.**—The agricultural co-operative credit structure in the Punjab State is broadly divided into two sectors, one dealing with the short-term and medium-term finance and the other with the long-term credit. In the State, the short-term and medium-term credit structure is based on a three-tier system, i.e., the Apex Co-operative Bank at the State level, the Central Co-operative Banks at the district/tahsil level and the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies at the village level. The major objectives of the primary agricultural credit service societies are to supply agricultural credit to meet the requirements of funds for agricultural production, the distribution of essential consumer commodities, the provision of storage and marketing facilities and for light agricultural implements and machinery.

Owing to an increasing emphasis on the development of land and agriculture, long-term co-operative credit has assumed great importance. There is the Punjab State Land Mortgage Bank at the Apex and the Punjab Mortgage Banks at the district/tahsil level. These Primary Land Mortgage Banks advance loans to the farmers for long term purposes.

At the operational level, there exists a primary co-operative to extend credit to the farmer. This unit epitomizes the vitality and service

potential of the Co-operative Movement in India. The organization of these societies dates back to 1904, when the first Co-operative Societies Act was passed. These societies were started with the object of providing cheap credit to the agriculturists in order to free them from the clutches of the rapacious money-lenders. The agricultural primary credit society is the foundation-stone on which the whole co-operative edifice is built. Even now these societies dominate the co-operative picture.

The first Agricultural Credit Society in the Firozpur District was registered on 4 October 1911, at the Village of Khalchi Kadim in the Firozpur Tahsil. Originally, the movement was confined to the credit societies only and, thus, credit dominated till the partition (1947). After the partition, the Co-operative Movement began to spread to other field, viz. labour, construction and farming.

In 1979-80, the number of agricultural co-operative credit societies in the District was 309 with a membership of 1,21,761. The loan advanced during the same year amounting to Rs 2,180.35 lakh and the deposits to Rs 26.84 lakh.

(2) **Agricultural Non-Credit Societies.**—While credit is and must remain for some time the chief concern of the Co-operative Movement in India, development during other times has been steady, even if relatively slow, since 1912, when the non-credit societies were brought officially under the aegis of the Movement. The World War II (1939—45) came as a God send boon with respect to the development of the Co-operative Movement. Prices of agricultural goods began to rise and touched new peaks. The repayment of loans was accelerated and deposits began to pour in. The number of societies also rose. Another interesting development in co-operation during the War was the extension of the Movement to non-credit activities, viz. consumer's co-operative marketing societies, consolidation societies, etc. The number of agricultural non-credit societies in the district was 38 in 1978-79.

Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Societies

Marketing has occupied a far smaller place in the co-operative picture in India than in many countries, notably Denmark and the USA, but not other non-credit line of co-operation, with the possible exception of the consolidation of land holdings and joint farming enterprises, seems to hold greater possibilities of help to the agricultural population of India. The development of co-operative marketing in India is closely bound up with the problem of credit—the claims of the money-lenders commonly inhibiting the cultivator's freedom of action in disposing of his crop.

The full utilization of loans advanced depends upon the arrangements for the marketing of surplus produce. For this purpose, there is the Punjab State Marketing Federation at the State Level, wholesale societies at the district level and marketing societies at the market level. These societies also provide other agricultural facilities and make arrangements for the supply of domestic items in the rural areas.

In 1979-80, there were 10 agricultural co-operative marketing societies in the District, with a total membership of 5,982 (5,056 individuals and 926 societies). During the same year, their paid-up capital was Rs 19.70 lakh and the working capital Rs 558.52 lakh, and they marketed goods worth Rs 992.08 lakh.

At the State level, the Punjab State Co-operative Supply and Marketing Federation (MARKFED) is playing an important role in building up an integrated structure for remunerative marketing and storing of agricultural produce. It has played an important role in hastening the Green Revolution in the State by arranging ready supplies of essential farm inputs needed by the cultivators.

Co-operative Farming Societies

The Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1928 observed that if co-operation failed, there would fail the hope of the Indian agriculturist. Co-operative farming is a compromise between collective farming and the peasant proprietorship and gives all merits of large-scale farming without abolishing private property. It implies an organization of the farmers on the basis of common efforts for common interests. Under this system, all landowners in a village form a co-operative society for tilling the land. The land is pooled, but each farmer retains the right of property. The produce is distributed among the members in proportion to the land and labour contributed by each. They are allowed to withdraw from the co-operative farm whenever they desire. In India, the exceedingly small size of holdings is perhaps the most serious defect in our agriculture. If agriculture has to be improved, the size of the holdings must be enlarged.

The co-operative farming societies, thus, enable the cultivators to enjoy the economies of large-scale farming through the pooling of land-management resources. In 1978-79, their number in the District was 135.

Other Societies

Besides the above, there are a number of other co-operative societies in the agricultural and allied fields. Their number in the District

in 1978-79 was as under :

Serial No.	Type of societies	Number in 1978-79
1	Co-operative Weaver's Societies	19
2	Co-operative Consumer's Societies	11
3	Co-operative Housing Societies	55
4	Co-operative Women's Societies	69
5	Co-operative Milk-supply Societies	114

(*Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1980, p. 298*)

(vii) Progress of Scientific Agriculture

Scientific agriculture means the application of new discoveries in the field of agricultural science and technology in a given agro-climatic region. It involves the replacement of animal and human power by machinery in all farming operations, ranging from ploughing to the marketing of the produce and the use of the produce and the use of fertilizers and improved seeds and agricultural practices.

Agricultural Implements. Newly evolved improved agricultural implements not only directly increase the crop yield but also reduce the cost of production by saving time and labour. Agriculture is being mechanized through the adoption of improved implements because of their greater utility and wider scope for use. The wooden plough has been mostly replaced by the iron plough. The cart with pneumatic tyres has taken the place of the cart with the wooden wheel. The increasing demand for the power wheat-thresher of different types has almost revolutionized the traditional system of threshing wheat under the feet of bullocks. The tractor-owning farmers are also adopting precision machines, such as seed-drills, seed-cum-fertilizer-drills and corn-planters. The tractors are also replacing the bullocks. The number of tractors registered in the Firozpur District, as on 30 June 1980, was 20,438.

Through the operation of the schemes of demonstration and popularization of agricultural implements, the quality marking of agricultural implements, and the concessions and loans allowed on implements and big machines, there has been a significant increase in the

adoption of improved implements. Improved implements, such as the furrowturning ploughs, the *Kisan* hoe, the single-row cotton drill and the barharow, have become very popular among the farmers.

The old types of agricultural implements still in common use are the *desi* plough, *sohaga* (wooden plank), *khurpa*, *drati* (sickle), *kassi* (spade) and *panjali* (yoke).

Firozpur is basically an agricultural district and a large number of agricultural implements are produced here. The District forms an important centre for the production of these implements not only in the Punjab but in northern India as a whole. Agricultural implements are supplied even to far-off States, such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The main implements produced are the wheat-thresher, maize-thresher, rice-sheller, ploughs of various kinds and disc harrow and a few tractor accessories. Many types of agricultural implements are produced at all the important trading centres, such as Firozpur, Fazilka and Abohar.

Seeds.—The basic requirement for increasing agricultural production is the supply of improved seeds. Inadequate supply of good seeds, coupled with the lack of technical know-how in seed production, has been one of the impediments in getting increased agricultural production. To bridge the gap between the demand and the supply of improved seeds, the Punjab Government set up seed farms during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956—61). These farms have been mostly concentrating on the multiplication of cash crops and vegetable crops. In 1979-80, there were 3 seed farms in the District, one each at Malwal (Firozpur Tahsil); Abohar and Gobindgarh (Fazilka Tahsil).

Crop rotation.—Rotation is defined as a more or less regularly recurrent succession of different crops on the same place of land. Soil fertility can also be regained by practising the rotation of crops. The benefits to be derived from the growing of leguminous alternately with cereals were distinctly recognised by early Indians as well as by the ancient Romans and Greeks, and the benefits of inter-cropped turnips or root crops in rotation with barley, clover and wheat were discovered about 1730 in England. Experiments conducted at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, have shown that the growing of a legume, such as *barseem*, develops a stable type and high degree of soil fertility for the succeeding cereal crops and that higher yields of wheat can be obtained for 3 or 4 years than when wheat is grown successively.

The effects of crop rotation on the yields of crops are manifold. First, the rotation helps to control weeds and certain crop pests and

diseases. Second, it may render chemical fertilizers and manure more effective by increasing the quantity of organic matter in the soil. Third, it reduces soil erosion and increases fertility by different crops growing in the same patch of land so as to enable the intake of plant food from different layers of the soil.

The crop rotations generally followed in the District are : maize-wheat-fodder ; maize-gram-cotton ; cotton (American) wheat or cotton-fallow-cotton ; maize- wheat-*bajra* or *guara* ; groundnut-wheat or barley paddy-wheat ; *bajra*-gram ; *guara*-wheat ; *senji*-sugarcane ; and fallow-sugarcane.

Fallow Cultivation.—By fallow land is meant the land from which one crop has been harvested and the land is left to rest until the sowing of the next crop. These fallows are of two kinds, viz. the 'old fallows' and the 'current fallows'. Fields which, after abandonment, remain uncultivated over along period are called 'old fallows' whereas those kept uncultivated during the current year are called 'current fallows'. Therefore, the fallow cultivation means the cultivation of land which has rested in this way. In the absence of organic manures and fertilizers, the fallow cultivation is very important for replenishing soil fertility reduced by the previous crop.

With the extension of irrigational facilities and owing to the pressure on land, not much area is left fallow. The extent of current fallows, however, depend on rains. If rains are timely, the maximum area is sown and very little is left fallow.

Fertilizers and Manures.—The basic prerequisite for good outturns of crops is the fertility of the soil which can be maintained and improved through the adoption of such agricultural practices as not only tend to minimize the loss of nutrients but also add them to the soil. Next to irrigation, fertilizers and manures are, therefore, most important for increasing crop yields.

Chemical Fertilizers

The consumption of fertilizers during the first two Plan periods was rather low. In view of the various educational promotional and organizational measures, such as the introduction of intensive agricultural areas and package programmes, publicity, large-scale demonstrations, training camps, increase in distribution centres, provision of adequate credit and effective co-ordination among different departments (Agriculture, Co-operative and Development), the consumption of fertilizers progressively increased. The following table shows the use of

chemical fertilizers in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 :

(Tonnes of nutrients)

Year	Fertilizer consumption			Total	
	N	P	K		
1972-73	..	19,459	3,965	1,380	24,794
1973-74	..	19,660	4,304	1,740	26,704
1974-75	..	17,070	2,737	897	20,704
1975-76	..	25,141	4,671	480	29,292
1976-77	..	27,772	8,863	1,552	38,187
1977-78	..	36,205	9,247	1,716	47,168
1978-79	..	48,298	14,910	1,708	64,906
1979-80	..	55,611	20,035	2,685	78,331

(Source : Chief Agricultural Officer, Firozpur)

Local Manurial Resources

Rural Compost and the Cattle-Dung Manure.—Good quality farmyard manure is perhaps the most valuable organic matter applied to soil. It has been the oldest manure used by man ever since he took to agriculture and is still the most popular of all manures. It not only supplies the soil with the much-needed nutrients, it also improves the physical conditions of very light soils or very heavy or deteriorated soils. It consists mainly of vegetable matter mixed with animal dung and urine. The East Punjab Conservation of Manures Act, 1949 (Amended in 1950) provides for the setting up of manure-conservation committees and empowers the State Government to notify particular areas for the purpose of conserving manure and makes it incumbent on the cultivators to take such measures as may be necessary for the purpose. The rural-compost scheme was made permanent in the State in October 1966.

The rural compost prepared in the District from 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year	Rural compost prepared (in tonnes)
1972-73	.. 14,00,000
1973-74	.. 15,50,000
1974-75	.. 15,70,000
1975-76	.. 16,00,000
1976-77	.. 15,45,000
1977-78	.. 15,00,000
1978-79	.. 15,50,000
1979-80	.. 16,00,000

(Source : Field Manure Officer, Punjab)

Green Manures.—Besides the rural compost and the cattle-dung manure, the use of green manure is another source of building up soil fertility. It provides the soils with organic matter and nitrogen, besides improving the physical properties of the soil and conserving moisture. The popular green-manure crops are *guara* or cluster bean *dhiancha* and *sunn hemp*.

The scheme for the extension of green-manuring in the State was initiated in April 1961. The area under green-manuring in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year	Area under green-manuring (in hectares)
1972-73	.. 19,000
1973-74	.. 19,500
1974-75	.. 21,000
1975-76	.. 24,765
1976-77	.. 23,650
1977-78	.. 20,000
1978-79	.. 19,800
1979-80	.. 20,000

(Source : Field Manure Officer, Punjab)

Town Compost and Sullage Utilization

Town Compost.—The refuse available in the town is another potential source of good-quality compost which can be utilized to increase crop production. To harness this source for increasing agricultural production, all-out efforts are being made to have these wastes properly conserved for manurial purposes. The quantity of town compost prepared in the

District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year	Town Compost prepared (tonnes)
1972-73	.. 1,07,000
1973-74	.. 1,10,000
1974-75	.. 1,00,000
1975-76	.. 1,12,000
1976-77	.. 1,06,000
1977-78	.. 1,05,000
1978-79	.. 1,08,000
1979-80	.. 1,20,000

(Source : Field Manure Officer, Punjab)

Sullage Utilization.—Crops grown on sewage or sullage effluents also give considerably higher yields than those with ordinary irrigation water. Sewage or sullage is a mixture of numerous kinds of wastes.

(viii) Agricultural Insect Pests and Diseases and Obnoxious Weeds
Insect Pests and Diseases.—A luxuriant crop is an open invitation to pests and diseases. The protection of crops from such pests and diseases assumes a special significance in the wake of the increased consumption of fertilizers and improved seeds. The high-yielding varieties of cereals and other crops are more susceptible to pests and diseases. Therefore special emphasis needs to be laid on plant-protection measures. To cover a wider area under these measures, the aerial spraying of crops (particularly cotton) by using helicopters has been introduced since 1965-66. The growers are required to pay only the cost of the pesticides, and other charges are borne by the State.

The insect pests and diseases commonly met with are given below :
 Crop pests and diseases: .. sugarcane stem-borer, sugarcane top-borer, sugarcane pyrilla, cotton, jassid, cotton leaf-foller, rice-bug, the *pansukh* disease of rice, *sarson* aphis, *toka* loose smut of wheat, the Karnal bunt of wheat, etc.

- Fruit pests and diseases: .. citrus psylla, lemon caterpillar, mango-hopper, mango mealy bug, citrus canker, etc.
- Vegetable pests: .. red pumpking beetle, brinjal *hadda*, potato and *bhindi* jassid, brinjal and *bhindi* fruit-borer, etc.
- Store-grain pests: .. *khapra*, *susri*, *dhora*, etc.
- Miscellaneous pests: .. field rats, etc.

Obnoxious Weeds.—The State Government enacted the East Punjab Agricultural Pests and Diseases and Obnoxious Weeds Act, 1949, under which the offenders can be punished on conviction by a Magistrate with fine which may extend up to Rs 50 or in default a simple imprisonment for a period not exceeding ten days. Notices are issued by agricultural inspectors to those cultivators who do not eradicate the *pohli* weed through persuasion before it matures its seeds and the defaulters are reported for legal action wherever necessary.

(d) Animal Husbandry, Poultry and Fisheries

In the field of agriculture, the Green Revolution has already been brought about by improved seeds, fertilizers and better farm practices. But for the full utilization of soil fertility, full employment for the agriculturists and increase in the rural income, the development of animal husbandry is envisaged as an essential part of a sound system of diversified agriculture. In the context of this background, ambitious programmes have been initiated in the State to improve the cattle wealth by adopting the scientific method of breeding, improved practices for feeding and measures to control diseases.

The livestock broadly includes bovine and ovine species. The bovine species includes cattle and the ovine species includes sheep and goats. Cattle and buffaloes constitute the major and most important part of the livestock in our country, as they are not only the main source of the draught power used in agriculture but are also the source of milk-supply. The District has a large number of Sahiwal cows and Nili buffaloes. Both these breeds are well known for heavy milk yield and a long lactation period.

A number of schemes for the improvement of livestock were undertaken during the Third Five-Year Plan. These schemes aimed at developing the milk-yielding capacity of well-defined milk breeds through selective breeding and by upgrading non-descript cattle, and at improving draught

breeds with respect to the milk-yielding capacity without impairing the quality of bullocks.

Livestock continues to be a valuable possession of the farmers in spite of the fact that the agricultural economy is heading towards mechanization. The sale of milk and other animal products adds to the income of the farmers. The manure obtained from the livestock increases the fertility of land, with the result that agricultural production is increased. The following table, based on the Livestock Census, 1972, shows that the District possesses a good number of livestock :

Livestock and Poultry in the Firozpur District

Particular	1966	1972				
		Total for the District	Tahsil Firozpur	Tahsil Zira	Tahsil Fazilka	
I Livestock	..	6,59,833	7,66,436	2,51,892	2,03,209	3,11,335
Cattle	..	2,81,294	3,16,272	1,06,235	82,993	1,27,044
Buffaloes	..	2,59,694	3,12,549	1,10,552	97,558	1,04,439
Horses and Ponies	..	2,238	2,568	572	744	1,252
Donkeys	..	5,026	3,526	1,226	835	1,465
Mules	..	49	188	20	21	147
Sheep	..	60,645	48,592	11,962	3,922	32,708
Goats	..	40,573	72,027	19,475	15,650	36,902
Camels	..	9,730	10,263	1,701	1,338	7,224
Pigs	..	581	451	149	148	154
II Poultry	..	1,10,300	1,33,318	32,459	46,969	53,890

(*District Statistical Abstract of Firozpur, 1973-74, pp. 130-131*)

At the District level, there is a District Animal Husbandry Officer at Firozpur. He is under the administrative control of the Director, Animal Husbandry, Punjab, Chandigarh. The office of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Firozpur, was established in 1951. Previously, the District was in the charge of the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Jullundur Division, with headquarters at Firozpur.

(i) Animal Health Wing and Animal Breeding Wing

At the district level, the Animal Husbandry Department comprises two wings, *viz.* the Animal Health Wing, in the charge of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Firozpur, and the Animal Breeding Wing, in the charge of the Project Officer, Intensive Cattle Development Project, Bathinda.

Animal Health Wing.—This wing is in the charge of the District Animal Husbandry Officer, Firozpur, who is assisted by 53 veterinary assistant surgeons, 50 veterinary compounders, 37 stock assistants and miscellaneous class III and Class IV employees. The veterinary hospitals are in the charge of veterinary assistant surgeons and the veterinary dispensaries are in the charge of the veterinary compounders.

The activities of this wing relate to : (i) the control and prevention of contagious diseases among animals ; (ii) the treatment of sick animals ; (iii) the castration of useless male stock for the improvement of breeds ; (iv) the supply of bulls of improved breeds ; (v) the maintenance of stallions for horse-and mule-breeding in the District : (vi) the holding of cattle shows and the awarding of medals, prizes and certificates to top quality animals for the encouragement of improved breedings ; and (vii) the holding of milk-yield competitions and the awarding of prizes to encourage the breeding of milk strains, such as Sahiwal in the case of cows and the Nili breed in the case of buffaloes. These activities are carried out through 51 veterinary hospitals and 17 permanent outlying veterinary dispensaries. Besides, a Sheep and Wool Development Centre at Abohar is being run in the District.

Animal Breeding Wing.—The breeding work in the Firozpur District is looked after by the Project Officer, Intensive Cattle Development Project, Bathinda, and, as such, there is a joint strength of the staff for the districts of Bathinda, Faridkot and Firozpur.

The breeding operations are carried out by obtaining fresh semen from the insemination centres where the tested Nili buffalo-bulls are kept. Bulls for semen collection are selected on the basis of the milk yield of their dams and the phenotypic characters.

The activities covered by this wing are : (i) the provision of fresh semen of exotic and local breeds of cattle and of the Nili buffalo-bulls from Firozpur, Zira and Fazilka Artificial insemination Centres ; (ii) the establishment of key village blocks with a number of key village units for the improvement of the buffalo breeds through artificial insemination ; (iii) the supplying of seeds to the bonafide breeders at subsidized rates

for the improvement of fodder crops (iv) the establishment of demonstration pasture plots by giving grants for popularizing fodder grasses and for silo pits ; and (v) the provision of funds for organising calf rallies for giving incentives to the breeders to look after their young calves.

Development of 'Gaushalas'.—Keeping in view the importance of *gaushalas* and *pinjrapoles*, the *Gaushala* Development scheme was launched on all-India basis for the development of selected *gaushalas* to serve as cattle-breding-cum-milk producing centres. Such a scheme was introduced into the Punjab in 1956-57 during the Second Five-Year Plan. There are 4 *gaushalas*, in the District at Firozpur, Fazilka, Abohar, Jalalabad and Zira.

Cattle Fairs and Shows

A large number of cattle fairs and shows are held at different places in the District every year. These are of vital importance to the farmers and others who rear cattle as these fairs provide the market for selling and purchasing cattle. The cattle fairs also provide the breeders with an opportunity to select suitable types of animals and also provide them with an occasion for exchanging ideas and experiences in the field of livestock-breeding.

With this end in view, the Central Council of Gosamvardhana, New Delhi, started in 1955 the celebration of Gosamvardhana Week every year on the Gopal Ashtami. For this purpose, the State Animal Husbandry Department allots the funds. Out of this fund, 50 per cent of the expenditure is met by the Central Council of Gosamvardhana, New Delhi.

Castration

Castration of weak and substandard animals is essential for the effective improvement of Livestock. During 1979-80, 1,461 bulls were castrated in the District.

Control of menace of wild and stray cattle.—Wild and stray cattle do much damage to the standing crops. In order to control this menace, the State Government launched the Wild and Stray Cattle Catching Scheme in 1962-63. Under the scheme, cattle-catching parties have been organised to round up wild and stray cattle.

(ii) Area under Fodder Crops:

The main foddercrops in the District are *jowar*, *guara*, *barseem*, oats, turnips, etc. For the Cattle, August to November is the best period and April to June is the worst time. In the former period, the cattle

fed on green fodder, such as grass, *jowar* and *moth*, and in the latter period wheat and dry stalks of barley. Apart from the above, the cattle are fed on *senji*, *bajra* and stalks of sugarcane. The following table shows the area under fodder crops in the District from 1972-73 to 1979-80:

Area under fodder crops in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1979-80

(hectares)

	<i>Year</i>								
	Fodder crops	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
'Kharfi' crops									
<i>Jowar</i> (<i>charhi</i>) ..	19,461	17,430	20,750	21,467	20,457	18,302	19,835	16,509	
<i>Guara</i> ..	32,186	26,175	18,751	9,916	20,629	15,530	11,328	8,119	
Other fodders	18,615	20,180	19,940	15,270	18,892	15,961	17,834	19,707	
Total ..	70,262	63,785	59,441	46,653	59,978	49,793	48,997	44,335	
'Rabi' crops									
<i>Berseem</i> ..	12,067	18,611	19,440	18,938	14,997	19,148	18,797	20,182	
Oats (<i>jav</i>) ..	1,678	1,810	2,721	1,877	2,105	800	1,887	2,217	
Other fodders (turnips) ..	12,069	6,568	6,973	7,789	6,408	5,843	7,235	3,375	
Total ..	25,814	26,989	29,134	28,604	23,510	25,791	27,919	25,774	
Grand Total	96,076	90,774	88,575	75,257	83,488	75,584	76,916	70,109	

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

The Food and Fodder Development Programme has been undertaken under the Key Village Scheme. The farmers are persuaded to grow improved varieties of fodders and grasses, the seeds of which are supplied at subsidised rates.

The village common lands, which were used as pastures before the consolidation of holdings, have been brought under cultivation.

(iii) Dairy-farming

According to the Livestock Census, 1972, the number of cattle (cows) and buffaloes (in milk) was 56,952 and 91,412, respectively. Buffaloes constitute the main source of the supply of milk. There are also a good number of sheep and goats, but their milk yield is low and of no commercial importance.

There is no regular dairy farm in the District, but a large number of people in the villages and towns maintain small dairies for supplying milk to the townfolk. With the increasing concentration of population in the towns and with the rise in the price of milk, dairying has become a paying business. Quite a good number of people also keep cows and buffaloes to meet their own requirements of milk and milk products.

(iv) Sheep-breeding

A scheme for the development of sheep and the production of wool was started in the State in 1957. It aims at developing the sheep and wool industry by improving the Quality and yield of wool through the scientific knowledge of sheep husbandry and wool technology.

Sheep-breeding in the District is carried on in the sandy areas of Fazilka and Abohar, where the traditional methods of breeding still prevail. The Veterinary Department is, however, trying to improve these methods by supplying pedigree rams, which serve the needs of the sheep owners.

There are eight sheep and wool extension centres in the District at Abohar, Amarpura, Khui Khera, Nihal Khera, Islamwala, Mudki, Jalalabad and Alamwala, where work regarding the improvement of sheep breeds and the control of diseases of sheep is carried on. The eradication of rinderpest on a mass scale is carried on in five blocks, viz. Firozpur, Guru Har Sahai, Jalalabad, Fazilka and Abohar.

According to the Livestock Census, 1972, the number of sheep and goats in the District was 48,592 and 72,027 respectively.

(v) Poultry Farming

Previously, people had no liking to rear poultry, partly on religious grounds and partly on other grounds. But, after the partition, poultry-farming has become quite popular, and people rear poultry to meet their own demands for eggs and, meat. A large number of commercial poultry farms have also been set up.

There are two poultry extension centres in the District at Firozpur and Guru Har Sahai.

(vi) Piggery

To develop the pig-rearing industry on modern lines and to give impetus to scientific pig-raising, the Animal Husbandry Department, Punjab, set up a pig breeding farm at Sallwal. To encourage and popularise small-scale pig-rearing on modern lines in blocks, some

incentives are given to the interested farmers. Subsidies are given for purchasing pigs, constructing model sites and for purchasing iron feeding-throughs.

With a view to imparting technical knowledge and educate the farmers in the latest modern techniques of pig-raising short-term training courses are run at intervals at the Government Pig-Breeding Farm.

According to the Livestock Census, 1972, the number of pigs in the District was 451.

(vii) Fisheries

The administration of the Fisheries Department in the Firozpur District is controlled by the District Fisheries Officer, Firozpur. The District is divided into two fisheries circles, viz. the Firpzpur Circle and the Ghal Khurd Circle, for the implementation of the fisheries development schemes. Each of thses circles is under the charge of a fisheries officer who is assisted by one or more field assistants or fishermen.

The fisheries resources of the district are vast and varied, comprising both running and impounded waters. The running water resources constitute the Satluj River, streams and their tributaries, canals and drains running within the boundaries of the District. Such waters are known as 'public waters', and their fisheries is leased out by open auction on yearly basis.

The District is also rich in natural and artificial impounded waters, the former being the *dhangs* (i.e. large stretches of water formed by the shifting course of the river) and the latter the village ponds and tanks.

In 1979-80, the area stocked with fish in the District was 12.40 hectares. As many as 98 fishing licences were issued during the year. The income from fisheries during the year was Rs 3,06,816.

The commercially important food and game fish, found in the District, are as under :

(i) Major corps of the subfamily Cyprinide of the family Cyprinidae of the order Cypriniformes. These include *catla catla* (*thail* or *thaila*), *Labeo rohita* (*rohu* or *damra*), *labeo calbasu* (*kaliahan* or *kalaunch*) and *cirrhina mrigala* (*mori* or *mrigal*).

(ii) Catfishes of the suborder *Siluroidei* of the order Cypriniformes. These include *Wallago attu* (*mullee*), *Mystus seenghala* (*singhara* or *singhari*), *Rita rita* (*khaga*).

(viii) Animal Diseases and Veterinary Hospitals

Animal Diseases.—The District is relatively healthy and livestock diseases are not common, except in the *bet* area, where seasonal (inundation brings *galghotu* (haemorrhagic septicaemia) and *phar sujan* quarter). The foot and mouth disease also appears at times as an epidemic. Goitre and liver rot are common among sheep and goats, and surra among horses and camels.

Veterinary Hospitals.—As far back as 1885, the first attempt to provide skilled treatment for animals was made in the District when the District Board appointed a Veterinary Assistant. He was in charge of the whole District with his headquarters at Firozpur, but the amount of work he was called upon to do soon indicated the necessity of increasing the staff. Three more veterinary assistants were, therefore, appointed with their headquarters at Muktsar and Zira in 1888 and another in 1890.

On the provincialization of the Civil Veterinary Department in 1901, the staff sanctioned provided for a man in each tahsil and one to tour in the whole District. About a decade after, in response to popular demand an extra man was appointed for the Sub-tahsil of Abohar. In addition to these officials, the District shared the services of the Veterinary Inspector with District Montgomery (now in Pakistan). Each of the tahsil veterinary assistant, including the one at Abohar, was in charge of a veterinary hospital at the tahsil headquarters. Besides the veterinary assistant, there was a compounder at each veterinary hospital and the usual menial staff who were provided by the District Board. The staff was under the supervision of a veterinary inspector, whose services were shared by another district, and the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, South Punjab. The staff was largely engaged in dealing with contagious diseases, the outbreaks of which was reported to them by the *patwaris* and *lambardars*.

When not engaged in controlling contagious diseases, the veterinary assistants remained at the headquarters where their time was fully occupied in treating a large number of animals that were brought for treatment daily. Treatment at the hospitals used to be free to all who did not pay income tax, but later on all who paid over Rs 50 as land revenue were charged.

The District is served by 52 veterinary hospitals, 17 permanent outlying dispensaries and 3 artificial insemination centres, as per details given below ;

Veterinary Hospitals, Permanent Outlying Dispensaries and Artificial-Insemination Centres in the Firozpur District in 1979-80

Zila Parishad	Municipal Committee	Veterinary Hospitals		Permanent outlying Dispensaries		Artificial Insemination Centres
		Government	Panchayat Samiti/ Municipal Committee	Tahsil Firozpur	Ghal Kturd	
1 Firozpur				1 Tibbi Khurd	2	Bazidpur
2 Guru Har Sahai				3 Hamad		3 Karian Phahalwan
3 Jhok Tahal				4 Jiwan Arain		
4 Mamdot				5 Sanda Hasyan		
5 Sodhi Nagar				6 Chak Saidkote		
6 Mudki				7 Koer Singh Wala		
7 Talwandi Bhai				8 Kamalwala		
				9 Man Singh Wala		
				10 Arif ke		
				11 Jhok Haribar		
				12 Thath		
				13 Waka Basti Vakila		

Tabsil Zira

Veterinary Hospitals		Permanent outfitting Dispensaries		Artificial Insemination Centres
Zila Parishad	Municipal Committee	Government	Panchayat Samiti/ Municipal Committee	
31	Rana			
32	Rukanpura			
33	Jalalabad East			
34	Khio Wali Dhal			

(Source : District Animal Husbandry Officer, Firozpur)

(e) Forestry

The Firozpur District falls under the jurisdiction of the Divisional Forest Officer, Firozpur Forest Division, Firozpur. He is assisted by one forest officer, 4 forest rangers, 2 deputy rangers, 14 foresters, 62 forest guards and ministerial class III and other miscellaneous staff. This office in the Forest Department was established in 1972.

The main functions of the Forest Department are to plant trees along roads, canals and railway strips. The Department also undertakes the plantation of trees for fuel and the conservation of protected forests under the Indian Forest Act, 1927. In addition, plants are also supplied to the public at subsidized rates and technical assistance is given to carry out the plantation of trees.

(i) Importance of Forestry in the Economy of the District.—The Firozpur District adjoins the outskirts of the Rajasthan desert and is known for high-velocity dust storms and shifting sanddunes. This fact gives added importance to forestry, more so than any other district in the Punjab except Bathinda. The tree growth has manifold advantages. First, the trees reduce the wind velocity and, thus, lower the capacity of the wind to carry away the soil. Second, the trees, by virtue of their root system bind the soil and, thus, increase the 'threshold velocity, or, in other words, a wind of particular velocity, which can blow away a given size of soil particles, will not be able to do so if there is a growth of trees on the site. There are also several other indirect benefits which accrue from forests and the most important among these benefits is that the forests add to the humidity of the air and increase precipitation.

The District is very dry and deficient in trees. Therefore, it is essential that a large-scale plantation of trees is carried out in this area, on the State land as well as on private land.

(ii) Area Under Forests.—The area under forests is classified according to ownership. State and private. The forests owned by corporate bodies and private individuals are included in the category of private forests. The area under forests is also classified according to the legal status, such as 'Reserved', 'Protected' and 'Unclassified'. The reserved forests are permanently devoted either to the production of timber or other forest produce and in them the right of grazing and cultivation is seldom allowed. In protected forests, these rights are allowed, subject to certain restrictions.

The area under forests shown in this section will not tally with the figures given under section 'Land Utilization', supplied by the Director

of Land Records, Punjab. The Forest Department reckons the entire area, including the non-wooded area under its control, as the forest area, whereas the Land Records Department calculates it on the basis of the actual area under forests.

There is an acute shortage of fuelwood in this arid zone. The indiscriminate cutting of trees, consequent upon the consolidation of holdings, and the launching of the Grow-More-Food Campaign caused the scarcity of fuel in the countryside. Steps were, therefore, taken to bring more Government land under the control of the Forest Department for raising fuel and economic plantations thereon. The strips along roads, canals and railways were transferred to the Forest Department for scientific management.

The Forest Department is raising fuel plantations to meet the growing demand for firewood. Firewood is also needed in plenty to release cowdung as manure for increasing soil fertility and food production. Shelter-belts and windbreaks along the cultivated fields in sandy areas are also being raised to increase soil productivity and for protection against the shifting sand.

The areas under forests in the District under the control of the Forest Department in 1979-80 was as under :

Particulars		Area (hectares)
(i) Reserved forests	..	443.33
(ii) Protected forests		
Rail-strips	..	1138.00]
Road-strips	..	1670.00 > 6600.50
Canal-strips	..	3792.50]
(iii) Unclassed forests	..	1636.00
(iv) Area notified under section 38 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927	..	158.50
(v) Area notified under sections 4-5 of the Land Preservation Act, 1900	..	3200.00
Total	..	12038.33

(iii) **Forest Produce.**—The forest produce is classified into major and minor produce. Under the major produce are included timber and fire-wood, whereas under the minor produce are included grasses and fruits. Timber from *shisham* (*Dalbergia sisso*), *kikar* (*Acacia arabica*), *jaman* (*Eugenias jambolana*) trees, etc., is used for manufacturing furniture and agricultural implements, and also in the construction of buildings.

The annual income from the forest produce in the District, from 1972-73 to 1979-80, was as under :

Year	Major produce (Rs)	Minor produce (Rs)
1972-73	6,44,082	2,865
1973-74	6,12,269	1,553
1974-75	8,63,585	7,155
1975-76	8,63,810	10,285
1976-77	9,01,944	5,685
1977-78	14,72,814	7,085
1978-79	17,90,203	4,510
1979-80	36,94,964	5,514

(Source :—Divisional Forest Officer, Firozpur Forest Division, Firozpur)

(f) Floods

Before the construction of the Bhakra Dam, normally the *bet* areas of the Zira, Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils were always exposed to the floods in the Satluj River, whereas Abohar was normally not affected by them. High floods have been experienced in the Satluj every year since 1947, but the floods of 1947, 1954 and 1955 were specially severe, more particularly the floods of 1955, which were unprecedented. The flood of 1955, which, owing to heavy and continual rains and insufficient drainage, caused extensive damage.

In 1957, 1958 and 1959, houses and the standing crops in the District were damaged by heavy rains. Again in 1973, 1975 and 1978, crops and houses were damaged to a considerable extent by heavy rains and floods.

The intensity of floods in the Satluj River has been considerably reduced consequent upon the completion of the Bhakra Dam. The existing problems in the District are the local congestion in drainage and a rise in the water-table, causing extensive damage to the cropped area. The Drainage Department has taken up the work of improving the above-ground drainage and considerable progress has been made in this respect, benefiting a vast area.

The following table shows the damage caused by floods and heavy rains in the District during 1973 to 1979 :



Damage caused to private property and to the under crops to produce and its value owing to floods during the rainy season in the Firozpur District during 1973 to 1979

Year	Number of villages and towns affected	Area affected (sq. km.)	Number of human lives lost	Number of the heads of cattle lost	Number of houses damaged	Damage to crops		
						Area affected (hectares)	Area affected (hectares)	Value ('000' Rs)
1973	..	282	523	7	11	4,732	46,984	1,366
1974	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1975	..	192	185	1	20	7,616	15,470	..
1976	..	885	1,005	25	264	70,749	82,797	..
1977	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1978	..	383	247	2	34	9,117	24,701	..
1979	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

(g) Famine

The word 'famine' may connote broadly a widespread shortage of food caused by natural calamities, such as the absence or acute shortage of rainfall, the depredations of insect pests, etc., leading to distress and starvation among the people. It may be distinguished from 'drought' and 'scarcity' which mean 'dryness of the weather or the deficiency of rain' and 'insufficiency of food' respectively. Scarcities and droughts are generally confined to limited localities and last for short periods of time¹. Famine is no new feature in history. Very few countries of the world can boast of not having faced this calamity at one time or another of their history. In our country also, famines had occurred in the past, and tradition and history have recorded some gruesome tales of the trail of misery which famines had left behind them.

The famines after 1858, however, excited considerable public interest in India, England and the world. Newspapers gave publicity and many humanitarian institutions urged on the Government the necessity of providing the suffering humanity with large-scale relief and the relief came. After every famine, the Government of India appointed a commission to examine the circumstances in the wake of which famine occurred and to suggest the nature of the relief operations which might be undertaken. The reports of the commissions led to the creation of a relief organization and the preparation of a Famine Code, which was modified from time to time to conform to the new situations.

The year 1880 is a landmark in the history of Indian famines, as it marked a new era in the history of the famine-relief policy of the Government of India. Lord Lytton (1876—80) decided that the Indian Government should not, as in the past, deal with each famine, as it occurred, but should lay down a regular policy of preventive measures. The report of the Famine Commission of 1880, appointed by him, forms the foundation of the existing provisional Famine Code. The main principles adopted were that employment should be found for the able-bodied in relief works and that gratuitous help should be given to the helpless poor.

Little is remembered of the famous famines of old times, as so much of the Firozpur District was colonized with the construction of the Sirhind Canal in 1882 and with a system of inundation canals in the District, known as the Grey canals, during the period 1875 to 1906.

In 1896-97, there was some scarcity, but it could hardly be called famine; it was marked by high prices and a shortage of fodder rather than by the scarcity of foodgrains.

¹ Hari Shanker Srivastava. *The History of Indian Famines, 1858—1918*, (Agra, 1968), p.1

The period 1899—1900, of which the people frequently speak as *Chhapanjha* (B.E. 1956), was another bad year and the *zamindars* suffered considerable losses from having to sell off large numbers of cattle at low prices.

The village menials were the class that suffered most in both these years, and a number of people also came from Bikaner and the south. Various public works were carried out and this, with inconsiderable suspensions of land revenue, sufficed to help the people to tide over the bad times.

With the extension of irrigation facilities after Independence, the District is no longer liable to suffer from famine or scarcity.



APPENDIX I

(Vide page 108)

Area under principal crops in the Firozpur District

(Thousand hectares)

Crops	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Cereals								
Rice	..	65	74	84	94	106	130	154
Wheat	..	249	242	235	289	300	304	324
Bajra	..	14.6	13.7	11.7	15.5	14.0	8.2	6.3
Maize	..	16	14	11	17	13	9	7
Jowar	..	1.3	2.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.3
Barley	..	17.8	29.7	31.7	25	12.8	7.6	5.4
Pulses								
Gram	..	36	39	34	44	42	41	44
Moong	..	0.32	0.94	0.87	0.57	0.34	0.28	0.30
Mash	..	0.61	1.49	0.56	0.51	0.56	0.26	0.74
Massar	..	0.24	0.45	0.25	0.27	0.27	0.24	0.36
Oilseeds								
Groundnut	..	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
Rape & Mustard	22.1	24.1	25.7	12.7	7.1	17.3	12.3	15.8
Sesamum	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Linseed	..	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)	(a)
Other Crops								
Sugarcane	3	4	4	4	4	3	2	1
Cotton (American)	..	66.8	80.8	76.7	87.1	88	82.3	83.5
Cotton (<i>desi</i>)	19.5	13.1	9.1	14.5	11	8.3	7.6	9.6
Potatoes	..	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8
Chillies	..	1.32	1.06	0.75	1.84	2.38	1.01	1.05

Note.—(a) Denotes less than 50 hectares

APPENDIX II

(Vide page 108)

Production of principal crops in the Firozpur District

Crops	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Cereals								
Rice	..	156	205	210	272	256	376	429
Wheat	..	532	512	570	671	734	785	922
Bajra	..	8	16	10	17	6	10	6
Maize	..	16	9	16	24	6	7	6
Jowar	..	0.8	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2
Barley	..	17	26	34	26	14	9	4
Pulses								
Gram	..	31	35	35	44	35	37	37
Moong	..	0.17	0.54	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Mash	..	0.29	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4
Massar	..	0.12	0.21	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Oilseeds								
Groundnut	1	—	—	—	—	—
Rape & mustard	..	13.8	18	22	8	5	10	9
Sesamum	..	0.1	0.2	(b)	0.2	(b)	0.1	0.2
Linseed	..	(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Crops								
Sugarcane (<i>gur</i>)	13	16	11	26	21	16	9	6
Cotton (American)	27.49	36.16	33.12	35.88	29.22	27.82	30.6	29.2
Cotton (<i>desi</i>)	6.86	4.19	3.06	4.44	3.06	2.65	2.10	2.71
Potatoes	..	8.5	10.4	10.4	10.6	11.5	11.9	16.7
Chillies	..	1.25	1.05	0.9	1.7	2.1	0.9	0.7

*Note : (b) Denotes less than 50 tonnes.**Production of sugarcane is in terms of gur.*

CHAPTER V

INDUSTRIES

(a) Old Time Industries and Industrial Development¹

The importance of industries in the national economy needs no emphasis. Though the truth of the slogan 'Industrialize or Perish' has been well realized in the State, yet the Firozpur District cannot claim to be industrially well advanced. It cannot boast of any well-established old-time industry. The pre-eminence of the district lies in agriculture. The genius of its people did not go towards industries before Independence, and after Independence, it became a border district, with the usual handicaps. There have, however, existed such cottage and village industries such, as pottery, leather-tanning, handloom-weaving, *phulkari* work, enamelling and saltpetre preparation in the district as are common in the Punjab villages. Trades like *sirki moohra*-making, wood-work, shoe-making, *pawa*-making, carpentry and blacksmithy are carried on in Firozpur. Fazilka was once known for *ban*-making. *Desi juttis* of Abohar, prepared in artistic designs with *zari* and *tilla*, are in great demand in the area.

With the passage of time, some agro-based industries were also set up in the District. Being a cotton-producing area, cotton-ginning and pressing industries were established at Giddarba (now in Faridkot District) after the First World War (1914—18). Previously also, there existed a few units engaged in wool-pressing. Before 1947, a few small-scale units of cotton-ginning and pressing had also been set up at Fazilka and Firozpur.

Hussainiwala was once famous for saltpetre. In 1931, a saltpetre-refining unit was set up at Firozpur. Enamelwares industry and cutlery-goods industry were also started at Firozpur during the fourth decade of the present century.

After the partition of the country in 1947, Firozpur became a border district. This proved to be a permanent impediment in its industrial progress. Such is particularly the case with the towns of Firozpur and Fazilka, which are situated quite close to the border. All the same, the industrial progress in the district has been quite encouraging slowly and steadily, industrial units have been set up at Abohar. Some of the new industries started are the cotton-spinning mills, brushware, rubber-insulated cables, cycle parts, plastic goods, etc. Abohar is also progressing well industrially. A number of cotton-ginning and pressing factories, and units manufacturing agricultural implements have been set up at Abohar.

¹Report on the Industrial Survey of Ferozepur District (Chandigarh, 1957)

The Indo-Pak Conflict of 1965 adversely affected whatever progress the district had made in the industrial field during the previous two decades or so. The entrepreneurs got discouraged and the capital became all the more shy. Investment became risky owing to the ever-present fear of war. To provide against this deteriorating situation, the State Government offered a number of concessions and facilities to the industrialists to improve the industrial set-up of the border districts. As these measures did not go a long way in bringing about the desired progress, the Government offered further facilities and concessions to encourage the growth and extension of industries in the area.

(b) State Aid to Industries

The Government gives high priority to widen the industrial set-up of the State economy. It helps industrialization and industrial activities in various ways. Incentives are offered to the entrepreneurs in setting up new industrial units. These include concessions regarding land, finance and capital, power, taxation, in the procuring of raw material, etc. Under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935, the Industries Department also gives financial assistance in the form of loans and grants (grants-in-aid/subsidies) for the development of industries. The following table shows the amount of financial assistance granted in the District during 1975-76 to 1979-80 :

Year	Loans		Grants-in- aid and Subsidy	
	Number of units	Amount (Rs)	Number of units	Amount (Rs)
1975-76	..	32	1,50,000	—
1976-77	..	117	3,00,700	—
1977-78	..	49	3,00,000	2 1,000
1978-79	..	46	3,00,000	1 1,000
1979-80	..	18	1,00,000	1 2,74,000

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1976 to 1980)

Besides the Industries Department, a number of financial institutions help the industrial units in the matter of finance. The Punjab Financial Corporation provides finance for the medium and large-scale

industrial units. It has also started the underwriting of share capital on the recommendations of the survey conducted by a study team of the Reserve Bank of India, besides advancing long and medium-term loans. The commercial banks also advances loans to the small-scale units for short periods.

Other measures taken for the promotion of industries in the District are discussed below :

(1) Quality Marking Scheme.—This scheme is a measure taken by the Punjab Government for the development and growth of small-scale industries. Under this scheme, the products of the small-scale units are quality-marked by the Government after testing the products, raw materials used, etc. Thus the Government gives a third-party guarantee to the customers. Before this scheme, which was launched during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956—61), the products of the small-scale units lacked uniformity with respect to quality, precision and standardization, since there were no such facilities made available to them by the Government and they themselves could not afford to install machinery for this purpose because of heavy costs. To overcome these difficulties, the State Government embarked upon this ambitious programme of providing facilities for testing the products, raw materials, etc. of the small-scale units at very nominal charges. These units are also provided with technical guidance. The Firozpur District is covered by the Quality-Marking Centre, Ludhiana,

(2) Common-Service Facility/Development Schemes—

Rural Industrial Development/Common-Facility Centres.—These centres have been opened in the rural areas to provide common-facility services, such as repair work. They are located at Zira and Kot Isa Khan.

(3) Other Organizations for the Development of Industries.— Besides the above-mentioned common-service facility development centres, there exist the following organizations for the promotion of industries in the district :

(i) Punjab State Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Chandigarh.— Set up as plan scheme during the Third Five-year Plan, the Punjab State Small Industries Corporation Ltd., Chandigarh, started functioning from October, 1962. Its objectives are to aid, counsel, assist, finance, protect and promote the interests of small-scale industries in the State. The main functions of the Corporation comprise procurement, storage and distribution of all categories of industrial raw material, whether imported or indigenous, viz. ferrous and non-ferrous metals, coal, molasses, yarns, oils, dyes, leather, timber, chemicals, foam,

laminated sheets, plastic cane, spirit and plywood. The raw materials are distributed to those industrial units whose names are recommended by the Director of Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh, through its offices opened in various towns. There is no depot of the Corporation in the Firozpur District for rendering assistance to the small-scale industries. However, the industrialists are given assistance to the offices of the Corporation located at Moga and Malaut (now in the Faridkot District). The Corporation also gives the facility of purchasing machinery on the hire-purchase basis to the small-scale industries.

(ii) **Small Industries Service Institute, Ludhiana.**—Set up in 1956 by the Government of India, the Small Industries Service Institute, Ludhiana, has its regional office at Ludhiana, with jurisdiction over the States of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The institute provides technical counselling, training, preparation and distribution of technical literature in the form of technical bulletins, drawing and designs and economic information service. The industrial management advice, marketing and rendering common facilities in the workshop and laboratories of the Institute and its extension centres are also included in the scope of its activities.

The services of the Institute have gone a long way in improving the quality and finish of the goods produced by several industrial units in the District.

(iii) **Mechanical Engineering Research and Development Organization, Ludhiana.**—The headquarters of the Mechanical Engineering Research and Development Organization are at Durgapur (West Bengal). It has three centres, one of which is located at Ludhiana. This centre was established in December 1965 to provide regional centres at focal points of concentrated engineering industries in the country, to assess their research and development needs, and to provide engineering technology which is not otherwise available to them. Since the centre has been set up to meet the requirements of the north-western region, it also renders facilities to the engineering industries in the Firozpur District.

The Scientific Committee appointed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, guides in framing the Plan and Programme of the centre. The Technical Adviser to the Government of Punjab, Chandigarh, heads the committee for the Ludhiana centre.

The organisation helps the industries to remove their technical difficulties and to establish sound production practices with an acceptable quality of products.

(c) Industrial Training

In an industrially developing country, industrial training plays a vital role in ensuring a speedy flow of technicians to man the ever-growing industrial activities. The industrial training centres play a double role by providing technicians for industries and for reducing unemployment. The Department of Industrial Training, Punjab, was originally started in the pre-Independence period as an emergency measure to produce suitable technicians required by the Defence Services and Defence Industries. After the World War II (1939—45), the Industrial Training Scheme was continued to rehabilitate ex-servicemen after imparting technical training. On the recommendations of the Sihva Rao Committee, set up by the Government of India, the Scheme was brought on a permanent footing in 1956, because it was felt that, without producing technicians at home, the industrial set-up of the country could not be widened. The Industrial Training Scheme was considered a *sine quo non* for the development of industries, with the result that, there was an all-round development in the training programme.

The industrial training programme in the Punjab also received an impetus under the Government of India's Programme. A separate wing was created in the Industries Department by the State Government for imparting industrial, technical and vocational training to boys and girls through its various industrial training institutes and schools.

There are two Government Industrial Training Institutes in the District at Firozpur and Fazilka. These impart training in engineering and non-engineering trades, as detailed in the following statement :

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Government Industrial Training Institutes in the Firozpur District, as on 31 March 1980

Serial No.	Name and location of the institute	Year of establishment	Course/craft in which training is imparted	Seating capacity	Duration of the training course	Minimum qualifications required for admission	Commerce-ment of session
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1	Industrial training Institute, Firozpur	Originally started in 1948, it was taken over by the Punjab Government from the Government of India in November 1956	(1) Blacksmith, welder S.M. worker ; moulder ; carpenter, mechanic, motor-vehicle, mechanic tractor (2) Fitter, turner mechanist (composite wireman)	212	1 year	Middle	August
			(3) Electrician	16	do	Matric with Science	do
			(4) Draftsman (mechanic), draftsman (civil), surveyor, mechanic radio and television	128	do	Matric with Science and Mathematics	do
			(5) Stenography (English)	32	1 year	Matric with English	do
			(6) Stenography (Punjabi)	32	do	Matric with Punjabi	do
			Total			<u>600</u>	

Serial No.	Name and location of the institution	Year of Establishment	Course/craft in which training is imparted	Seating capacity	Duration of the training course	Minimum qualification required for admission	Commencement of session
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
2	Industrial Training Institute, Fazilka	August, 1963	(1) Blacksmith, sheet metal worker, carpenter, mechanic, motor vehicle, mechanician, tractor (2) Fitter, turner, mechanist (composite), wireman (3) Electrician (4) Stenography (Punjabi)	128 176 32 16	1 year 2 years 2 years 1 year	Middle Middle Matric with Science Matric with Punjabi	August do do do
	Total	..		352			

(Source : Director, Industries (Industrial Training Section) Punjab)

Besides the above-mentioned insitutes, there are 3 Government industrial schools for girls, one each at Firozpur, Dharmkot and Zira. They impart training in tailoring, cutting, needle-work and embroidery.

(d) Industrial Areas and Estates

The scheme for the establishment of industrial estates was launched in the State in 1959. It was started with the object of dispersing industries to economically backward rural areas and creating conditions for planned industrial growth. The urban industrial estate at Firozpur was established on 4 September 1965 to provide suitable accommodation for the various industrial units there. It has 19 sheds on the estate for the housing of small-scale units. There is no industrial area in the District.

Sources of Power

Power is a *sine qua non* for the economic development of the country. In this District, hydroelectric power is the main source of the Power, though other sources, such as coal, diesel and petrol are not uncommon, especially when electricity is in short supply. However, electricity, is speedily replacing other sources of power.

The demand for electricity is rapidly increasing in the District, partly, because now it is no longer a luxury, but has become a necessity and, partly owing to the increase in the industrial units in the area. The 'Green Revolution' in agriculture can, *inter-alia*, be attributed to electricity, as it helps to increase the irrigational facilities by energizing tube-wells.

Firozpur was electrified for the first time in 1935 and it used to receive current from a 132-KV substation at Lahore (now in Pakistan). After the partition (1947), the supply of electricity from Lahore was stopped and Firozpur was fed from Jodhpur through the Ludhiana grid substation. A 33-KV grid substation was installed at Firozpur in 1934. Before the partition of the country, only a few places, viz. the Firozpur City, the Firozpur Cantonment, Abohar and Fazilka, were electrified. Except Firozpur, at all other places in the District, power was generated through diesel-engines locally by private companies. Later on, in 1949, these private companies were taken by the Government.

The District is being partly served by the Firozpur Division, partly by the Muktsar Division, partly by the Malaut Division and partly by the Abohar Division of the Punjab State Electricity Board. They are under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Punjab State Electricity Board, Firozpur. The hydroelectric power comes from the Bhakra-Nangal project.

Muktsar Division.—The Muktsar Division came into existence in 1959. Muktsar was electrified for the first time on 22 December, 1955. This Division meets the demand of Arniwal, Nandgarh, Lakhewali, Ladhuwala, Tahliwala, etc. A 132 grid substation has been installed at Muktsar, with an installed capacity of 42.5 MVA. Also, there was one 66-kv and two 33-kv substations, one each at Fattan Wala and Sarainaga (now in the Faridkot District) and Arniwala respectively. This Division gave 2 industrial connections in the Firozpur District during 1979-80.

Firozpur Division.—This Division was established in March 1949. The Firozpur City and the Cantonment areas were the first places in the District to be electrified when a 33-kv grid substation, with a capacity of 8MVA was installed in 1935. Under the control of this Division now functions one 132-kv substation at the Firozpur Cantonment, four 33-kv substations at the Firozpur City, Mamdot, Ferozeshah and Jhok Harihar. During 1979-80, this Division gave 47 industrial connections in the Firozpur District.

The Division mostly meets the demand of the Firozpur City, the Firozpur Cantonment, Mamdot, Ferozeshah, etc.

Malaut Division.—The Malaut Town falls into the new Faridkot District. But for the distribution of electricity, this Division also serves some areas of the Firozpur District. The areas of the Firozpur District, which receive power, are Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai, etc.

A 132-kv grid substation at Malaut and two 33-kv grid substations, one each at Jalalabad and Guru Har Sahai are functioning under the control of this Division. The Division gave 18 industrial connections in the Firozpur District during 1979-80.

Abohar Division.—This Division was established in May 1976 at Abohar. The areas of the Firozpur District, which receive power from the Abohar Division, are the Fazilka City, Fazilka Sub-urban Abohar Sub-division, etc.

Besides, a 132-kv grid station at Abohar, four 33-kv grid substations have been installed at Abohar, Khuian Sarwar, Khui Khera and Fazilka and a 66-kv substation at Laduka. This Division, during 1979-80, gave 24 industrial connections in the Firozpur District.

(f) Growth and Development of Industries

Up to the beginning of the twentieth century, there was hardly any industrial unit in the District, which had remained basically an agricultural tract. In 1931, a saltpetre-refining factory was set up at Firozpur. The

location of this industry was raw-material-oriented, because rich sources of the raw material were available in the area. After the partition of the country in 1947, this industry received a set-back, because the area where the raw material was available formed a part of Pakistan. In 1940, a firm, with a Japanese-trained and qualified expert, started the manufacturing of enamelware. A roller flour-mill was set up at Firozpur in 1945 in the large-scale sector. In 1947, a unit started manufacturing certain chemicals, but it was closed down later on.

Also, there were cottage and village industries, such as handloom-weaving, leather-tanning, shoe-making (especially the *desi jutti*) *bam* and rope-making and soap making.

At partition, the situation of the District on the international border adversely affected the growth and expansion of industries. Thereafter, the industrial progress in the area was very slow. Before the First Five-Year Plan (1951—56), the number of industrial units in the District was estimated at 925. It rose to 1,456 by the end of the plan period. The industries started during this period were : plastic goods, optical goods, such as frames and lenses, brushware, *dhoop*-making and rubber-insulated cables. The production of oil-engines and bolts and nuts was also started during the same period.

The industrial progress in the District was, however, stepped up during the Second Five-Year Plan (1956—61), by the end of which, the number of industrial units rose to 2,195. The textile industry in the large-scale sector came into existence in 1957 at Abohar. The production of modern agricultural implements, such as threshers for wheat and maize, the implements worked with tractors and the production of sowing-drills, was started in 1960. The machine-tools industry also developed from 1960 onwards. The production of porcelainware, motor parts, dynamos, armatures, horns, etc. started in 1960. Some cotton-spinning mills were also set up during 1962 to 1964. A large number of workshops for repairing tractors, etc. have also been established. At Abohar, fire-crackers are also manufactured in the small-scale sector.

In 1979-80, there were 4 units in the large-scale sector, engaged in cotton-ginning and pressing, in manufacturing saltpetre and textiles ; and there were 1,219 units in the small-scale sector.

(g) Industries and Manufactures of the District

The existing industries in the District may be classified into large-scale, small-scale and cottage and village industries. A number of industries, which fall partly into the large-scale sector and partly into the small-scale

sector have been discussed, as a whole, among those in the large-scale sector. The jail industries have been mentioned separately.

(i) Large-scale Industries

There is no heavy and basic industry in the District. A few large-scale industries, which are in existence, are mentioned below :

(1) **Cotton-Ginning and pressing.**—In the District, this is the most important industry, in which a large number of units are engaged. Cotton which is the basic raw material of this industry, is available in plenty in this area. The work is carried on both in the large-scale and small-scale sectors. Since the cotton-ginning industry is raw-material-oriented, it is concentrated in the cotton-growing tract of Fazilka. Most of the units are located at Abohar. There is hardly any unit in the Fazilka Town itself in the large-scale sector. This is because of the nearness of the Indo-Pakistan border. Two or three units, established before the partition (1947), continue to function, but no new unit has come into existence thereafter. The position got further accentuated after the Indo-Pakistan War of September 1965. More than 90 per cent of the ginned cotton is sent to other districts and States, as its consumption in the District is nominal. The major consumer of the ginned cotton in the District is the only spinning-mill located at Abohar in the large-scale sector, and another small-scale unit at Abohar.

There was only one unit engaged in the cotton-ginning and-pressing industry in the large-scale sector in the district during 1979-80, with a total fixed investment of about Rs 34.06 lakhs of rupees. It was established in 1973. Besides, 53 units are working in the small-scale sector. The large-scale sector provided employment for 85 persons, whereas the small-scale sector provided it for 1,825 persons.

(2) **Flour-Milling.**—Messrs Sutlej Flour-Mills, Firozpur, now known as Modi Trading and Industrial Syndicate, Ltd., are the owners of the only unit of its kind in the District in the large-scale sector. Established in 1945, this unit has an annual installed capacity of about 34,000 tonnes. Apart from doing the work of flour-milling, it does rice-shelling and oil-extracting. This is also an agro-based industry. The main raw materials wheat, are paddy and mustard, which are locally available in Plenty. During 1979-80, the unit employed 115 persons and made products, such as flour, *maida* and *suji*, mustard oil, *khal* (oil-cake), and rice, worth 138.42 lakhs of rupees. Its total fixed investment amounts to 14.08 lakhs. The machinery installed therein is partly indigenous and partly imported.

(3) Cotton Textiles.—This is a post-Partition industry started in 1957. There is only one unit of its kind in the District in the large-scale sector at Abohar¹. Its total installed capacity in 1957 was 25,948 spindles. This is the only largest unit which consumes the basic agricultural produce of the District, i.e. cotton. But, this too consumes only a fraction of the cotton ginned in the District. The unit produces cotton and staple yarn. The machinery installed in the unit is worth 148 lakhs of rupees and is partly imported. The total output of the unit in 1979-80 was worth about Rs 1,450 lakhs. It employed 3,468 persons during that year. The fixed investment of 493 lakhs of rupees was invested in the unit up to 1979-80. The yarn is sent to places throughout the country.

(4) Oil-Mills.—During 1979-80, the only unit in the large-scale sector, engaged in the extraction of oil from cottonseed was located at Abohar. It was set up in 1978, with a fixed capital investment of 27.04 lakhs of rupees in 1979-80. It produced goods worth 113.30 lakhs of rupees and employed 11 persons.

(ii) Small-Scale Industries

In a developing economy, such as that of India, small-scale industries play a vital role, especially in the context of our urgent need for accelerated industrial growth. Also, these industries help to dispose of wealth and break up monopolistic tendencies. With the emphasis laid on the socialist pattern of society, the Government of India have rightly given a great deal of importance to the establishment and development of small-scale industries in the country. In fact, a number of products have been exclusively reserved for production in the small-scale industrial sector.

There are only a few medium and large scale units in the Firozpur District. Mostly, the small-scale units are found there, because of the proximity of the Pakistan border. The capital is shy, because in this area, the people are not willing to go in for big investments. Naturally, the District is industrially backward, despite the Government offers of a number of concessions and incentives for setting up industries there.

The main small-scale industries of the District are detailed below :

(5) Agricultural Implements.—The Firozpur District forms an important centre for the production of agricultural implements. The main items produced include wheat-threshers, maize-threshers, rice-shellers, ploughs of various kinds, harrows, discs and a few other tractor accessories. Previously, all such items were produced at Moga, but now all the important trading centres, such as Firozpur and Abohar, produce these items. The main raw material consists of iron and steel.

¹Another spinning-mill in the co-operative sector, viz. The Abohar Co-operative Spinning Mill, Abohar, was established in 1981.

In 1979-80, there were 541 units engaged in this industry, which produced goods worth 145 lakhs of rupees and employed 1,830 persons.

(6) **Rice-Shellers.**—Commercial rice production is becoming increasingly important in the Punjab. Though the Punjab State is predominantly a wheat-consuming area, the farmers have found it profitable to grow high yielding paddy varieties during *kharif* before growing wheat during *rabi*. In view of the importance of rice production on a commercial basis, a study of the modernization of the paddy-rice system, particularly at the procurement and processing stages in the Punjab, was undertaken by the Centre for Management in Agriculture, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and it submitted its report in October 1974. The major objective of the study was to analyse the scope of introducing modern methods of handling paddy after harvesting it. The report summarizes the market-arrival patterns, prices, facilities for storage and milling in the vicinity of the *mandis* (markets), and their other structural aspects.

The number of rice shellers in 1979-80 was 182. These units gave employment to 2,428 persons and shelled paddy worth 4,231.9 lakhs of rupees.

(8) **Oil Engines.**—The manufacturing of oil-engines was started immediately after 1947. It is said that during the British Rule, the manufacturing of oil-engines was not allowed. This was done in the interest of the manufacturers of oil-engines in the United Kingdom. The first oil-engine is said to have been manufactured at Moga in 1951-52. To begin with, horizontal engines were manufactured, but later on the manufacture of vertical engines was also started.

In 1979-80, 7 units were engaged in the manufacturing of oil-engines and their parts. These units produced engines and engine parts worth 4.25 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 23 workers.

(9) **Electrical Accessories.**—During 1979-80, there were 7 units engaged in the production of electrical accessories in the District. The main items of production are holders, shoes, wall-sockets, fuse out-outs, ceiling roses, etc. The main raw material used are brass parts and phenolic powder. During 1979-80, goods worth 1.05 lakhs of rupees were produced and these units gave employment to 27 persons. The goods are marketed locally in the District and the adjoining areas of Haryana and Rajasthan.

(10) **Automobiles.**—Four units are engaged in the production of motor parts. The main items of production are the propeller shaft

sleeve yoke, propeller shaft teeth rear, stub ball half yoke shaft end, armatures, commutators, musical horns, etc. The main raw material include super-enamelled wire, iron, steel, cast iron, etc. In 1979-80, these units produced goods worth 2.39 lakhs and gave employment to 13 workers.

(11) **Dhoop- Making.**—This is also an old industry of the District. In 1979-80, 7 units were engaged in the production of *dhoop* and *agarbati*. The main raw materials required are sandal *dhoop* wood, oils, ghee and scents. Apart from meeting the local demand, the products are sent to other parts of the country. In 1979-80, the industry employed 41 persons and produced goods worth 8 lakhs of rupees.

(12) **Optical Goods.**—The industry was started in the District in 1950. In 1979-80, at Firozpur there were 3 units, engaged in the production of frames, lenses, eye-testing boxes, lense-cutting machines, etc. The main raw material required for the industry are rough blanks, sheets of cellulose nitrate, acetate, emery, etc. In 1979-80, the industry produced goods worth 2.82 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 16 workers.

(13) **Radios and Radio Parts.**—Two units are engaged in the assembling of radios and transistors in the District. In 1979-80, the industry produced goods worth 2.50 lakhs of rupees and employed 4 persons.

(14) **Sodium silicate.**—The sodium silicate industry came into being in the District in 1958. Two units are engaged in the production of this chemical. The main raw materials required are soda ash, sodium nitrate, steam-coal and silical sand. During 1979-80, the industry produced goods worth 1.69 lakhs of rupees and employed 6 workers.

(15) **Soap.**—This is an important small-scale industry of the District. As many as 27 units are engaged in the production of washing-soap. Though mostly located at Firozpur, Abohar and a few other places, the units are scattered all over the District. The main raw materials required are edible oils, silicate, mutton tallow, etc. During 1979-80, the industry produced goods worth 40.85 lakhs of rupees and employed 114 workers.

(16) **Steel Furniture.**—In 1979-80, there were 4 units engaged in the production of steel furniture, such as steel almirahs, chairs and tables. These units gave employment to 16 persons during that period and produced goods worth 2.90 lakhs of rupees.

(17) **Brick Tiles.**—Twenty-nine units were engaged in the production of brick tiles during 1979-80 and gave employment to 1,101 persons and manufactured brick tiles worth 87 lakhs of rupees.

(18) **Garments.**—Only 2 units were engaged in the District during 1979-80 in this industry, which gave employment to 6 persons and produced goods worth Rs 95,000.

(19) **Spices.**—During 1979-80, 2 units remained engaged in the District. This industry gave employment to 9 persons and prepared spices worth 3.65 lakhs of rupees.

(20) **Cement Jalis .**—There were 9 units engaged in the manufacture of cement *jalis* in the District during 1979-80. These *jalis* are fixed in the buildings for ventilation. This industry gave employment to 25 workers and manufactured cement *jalis* worth 3.35 lakhs of rupees.

(21) **Wooden Furniture.**—Thirty-five units were engaged in manufacturing wooden furniture in the District during 1979-80 and gave employment to 102 persons and manufactured wooden furniture worth 8.35 lakhs of rupees.

(22) **Cold Stores and Ice Factories.**—There were 11 cold stores-cum-ice factories in the District during 1979-80. These units produced ice worth 6.25 lakhs of rupees and employed 87 persons.

(23) **Motor Dynamos.**—In 1979-80, there were 6 units engaged in production of motor dynamos in the District. These units produced goods worth 7.90 lakhs of rupees and employed 40 persons.

(24) **Sheet Metal.**—In 1979-80, there were 115 units engaged in the manufacture of trunks, *petis*, buckets, etc. in the District. These units employed 342 persons and produced goods worth of 44.96 lakhs of rupees.

(25) **Flour-Mills.**—There were 59 flour-mills engaged in the grinding wheat. These units also grind pulses. These units gave employment to 201 persons and produced goods worth 62.02 lakhs of rupees.

(26) **Candle -Making.**—In 1979-80, there were 50 units engaged in candle-making. These units prepared candles worth 8.10 lakhs of rupees and employed 106 persons.

(27) **Dyes.**—The only unit engaged in the manufacturing of dyes in the District is located at Firozpur and it produced dyes worth Rs 27,000 and employed 4 persons.

(28) **Plastic Goods.**—During 1979-80, 3 units were engaged in the manufacturing of plastic goods, such as toys in the District. These units employed 12 persons and produced goods worth Rs 60,000.

(29) **Bone Fertilizer.**—There is one unit engaged in the production of fertilizer from bones in the District. It employed 25 persons and produced goods worth 5.55 lakhs of rupees during 1979-80.

(30) **Sela-Plant Manufacturing.**—There were, during 1979-80, 5 units engaged in the manufacturing of the *sela* plants in the District. It manufactures machinery for rice, *dal* and flour-mills. During 1979-80, it employed 38 persons and produced goods worth 45 lakhs of rupees.

(31) **Cardboard Industry.**—Only one unit is engaged in the production of straw cardboards in the District. The unit was set up in the Firozpur City in 1963. During 1979-80, the industry produced goods worth 1.83 lakhs of rupees and employed 9 workers. The amount invested in the industry was about 7 lakhs of rupees.

(32) **Enamelware.**—These small-scale units are engaged in the enamelling of hollowwares. One of these units was established at Firozpur in 1940 under the supervision of a trained and qualified enamel expert from Japan. The main raw materials used are iron sheets, steam-coal and chemicals (soda ash, feldspar and flour-spar), titanium dioxide, etc. In 1979-80, the industry produced goods worth 18.65 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 130 persons.

(iii) Cottage and Village Industries

The cottage and village industries are of considerable importance in improving the economic condition of the rural population, as they play an important role in the rural economy and its reconstruction. In fact, the improvement of agriculture largely depends upon the resuscitation of the small-scale rural industries. These industries provide the agriculturists with part-time jobs in the off-season and, thus, help to mitigate unemployment to some extent.

The important cottage and village industries in the District are described below:

(33) **Handloom-Weaving.**—It is an important old cottage industry, carried on in almost all villages and towns. In the past, the villagers used to meet their demand for cloth locally. The home-grown cotton, and wool were spun by the womenfolk at home and got the yarn woven by the village weaver who was paid some remuneration for his labour. Blankets, *kheses* of various types and designs, and coarse cloth, called *khaddar*, were the main products of the handloom-weaving industry. *Durries* were woven by the womenfolk themselves for their domestic needs.

After 1947 and, especially with the implementation of the Five-Year Plans, the products of the handloom-weaving industry have improved. The State Government gives concessions and facilities. The Village and Khadi Board Commission, set up by the Government of India, also helps to develop cottage and village industries. The main raw materials required for the industry are cotton and woollen yarn, hand-and mill-spun.

In 1979-80, the industry gave employment to 785 workers and produced goods worth 6.84 lakhs of rupees. Mostly, backward classes are engaged in this industry. The number of units engaged in handloom-weaving have, however, been on the decrease. Only 438 units were engaged in the industry in the District in 1979-80 as against 968 units before 1947.

(34) **Leather-Tanning.**—Leather-tanning is also an important village industry. The main raw materials required for it are hides, skins and bark of the *kikar* (*Acacia arabea*) tree, which is used for treating raw hides and skins. In 1979-80, there were 536 units engaged in the industry, which gave employment to 1,241 persons and produced goods worth 21.82 lakhs of rupees.

(35) **Jutti-Making.**—*Jutti* (country shoes) making is also another important industry located at Fazilka. The main raw materials required for the industry are tanned leather, nails, thread, etc. A good number of units were engaged in the industry.

(36) **Ghani oil.**—In 1979-80, 32 units were engaged in this industry which gave employment to 49 persons and produced goods worth Rs 72,000. The number of *kohlus*, i.e. oil-presses, is on the decrease.

(37) **Gur and Khandsari.**—The making of *gur* and *khandsari* is also an important industry of the rural areas. In 1979-80, 85 units were engaged in the production of *gur* and *khandsari* in the District. The industry produced goods worth 9·01 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 135 persons.

(38) **Ban and Rope making.**—This District is known for this industry as the basic raw material, i.e. *munj*, is available in abundance in the belt along the Satluj River and the canals. Previously, *ban* was made with hands, but now hand-driven and power-driven machines are used in its production. In 1979-80, 548 units were engaged in the production of *ban* and ropes. These units produced goods worth 4·33 lakhs of rupees and gave employment to 683 persons.

Apart from the above, there are other cottage and village industries, such as carpentry, pottery, goldsmithy, blacksmithy, flour-grinding, cotton-carding and basket-making.

(iv) Jail Industries

The prisoners in the Central Jail, Firozpur, are given training in various trades to enable them to earn their livelihood by doing some useful productive work after their release and, thereby, become good citizens. The different trades, in which training is given in the jail, are carpentry (furniture-making), textiles, *durrie* weaving, tailoring (rison and hospital uniforms), *niwar* and tape, tags and laces, *munj* and hemp, lamboo products (*chicks*, brooms, etc.), oil and oilcakes and poultry.

The articles manufactured in the above-mentioned trades in the jail are sold mainly to jails, government departments and private individuals. The following was the outturn of the industries, during 1974 to 1980 :

Year	Amount (Rs)
1974	.. 5,52,924
1975	.. 6,23,849
1976	.. 5,35,665
1977	.. 6,39,691
1978	.. 6,15,324
1979	.. 6,11,536
1980	.. 10,62,825

(Source : Superintendent Central Jail, Firozpur)

(b) Role of Industrial Co-operatives

The role of industrial co-operatives in the development of industries in a basically agricultural District, such as Firozpur, is all the more important, because the people here do not invest much in industries. Capital is shy not only in the rural but also in the urban areas. The industrial co-operatives help to set up village industries in the rural areas, because an average industrial worker does not possess sufficient capital for installing modern machinery. Apart from the fixed investment difficulties,

he is also unable to meet the requirements of the working capital. Besides, he procures raw materials at higher rates and markets his goods at lower rates, because he cannot compete in the open market with bigger producers on account of his smaller scale of production, higher cost of production, lower degree of bargaining power, etc. The formation of industrial co-operatives by individual workers obviates most of their handicaps. The societies purchase raw materials in bulk at lower prices from the wholesalers. The products are also disposed of at reasonable rates. Credit facilities are readily given by private entrepreneurs in the case of societies. The co-operative societies also get subsidies, grants-in-aid and loans from the Government for the purchase of machinery, equipment, etc. Moreover, the development of village industries in this agricultural district, where farmers remain unemployed or disguisedly unemployed, will give full-time employment.

The following table shows the number and membership of the industrial co-operative societies in the District as in June, 1980 :

Serial No.	Name of Industry	Number of Industrial Co-operative Societies	Membership
1	Handloom-weaving	11	233
2	Small-scale industries	177	3,314
3	<i>Khadi</i> and village industries	30	1,093
4	Handicrafts	4	60

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)

The value of goods produced by the above societies, during the year ending June 1980, is given below :

	Industrial Co-operatives	Amount (Rs)
1	Handloom-weaving	.. 20,000
2	Small-scale industries including handicrafts	.. 15,36,000
3	<i>Khadi</i> and village industries	1,05,000
4	Handicrafts	.. 15,000

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)

Before April 1963, the industrial co-operatives were under the control of the Co-operative Department. Since then, these co-operatives have been transferred to the Industries Department. The Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Firozpur, is in charge of the Industrial Co-operative Societies in the Firozpur District. He is under the administrative control of the Deputy Registrar, Industrial Co-operatives, Ferozepur.

The following table shows the amount of loans advanced and the subsidies given by the Government to the Industrial Co-operative Societies in the District during 1978-79 and 1979-80 :

Industrial Co-operatives	1978-79		1979-80	
	Loan (Rs)	Subsidy (Rs)	Loan (Rs)	Subsidy (Rs)
Weaver's Societies	..	—	—	—
Small-Scale Industries	..	7,900	—	7,900
<i>Khadi</i> Societies	..	8,200	—	8,200
Handicrafts Societies	..	—	—	—

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)

The following table shows the progress made by the industrial Co-operatives in the District during 1978-79 to 1979-80 :

Particulars	Year	
	1978-79	1979-80
Number of Industrial Co-operative Societies	224	223
Membership	4,548	4,700
Share Capital (in Rs)	19,61,000	19,89,000
Working Capital (in Rs)	35,43,000	34,67,000
Production (in Rs)	9,48,000	16,76,000
Sales (in Rs)	9,27,000	15,53,000

(Source : Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)

The above table shows that there has not been any appreciable progress in the working of the industrial co-operatives in the District, mainly due to its close proximity to the Pakistan border. The District suffered great set-back during the Indo-Pakistan conflicts of 1965 and 1971. A number of schemes have therefore, been initiated by the Government to provide the Co-operative societies with financial assistance. The Central Co-operative Banks also advance loans.

(i) Labour and Employers Organisations

Labour Organisations.—The following is the list of registered trade unions of workers employed in different industries in the District.

	Name of Trade Union	Date of registration
1	Satluj Flour-Mill Workers' Union, Ferozpur City	19 January 1956
2	Indian Enamel Worker's Union, Ferozpur City	22 February 1957
3	Cotton-Mill <i>Mazdoor</i> Union, Abohar	.. 23 August 1959
4	Cotton Textile <i>Mazdoor</i> Union, Abohar	.. 27 May 1962
5	Cotton-Mill <i>Mazdoor</i> Union, Fazilka	.. 25 August 1967
6	Bhiwani Cotton-Mills Karmchari Sangh, Abohar	11 March 1969
7	Bakery-Workers' Union, Ferozpur	.. 17 March 1971
8	Biscuit Bakery-Workers' Union, Fazilka	.. 7 November 1973
9	Zila Ferozpur Cotton and Ginning-Mill <i>Mazdoor</i> Union, Fazilka	14 April 1975
10	Cotton-Mill Labour Union, Abohar	.. 25 October 1977

Manufacturers' Associations.—These associations play an important role in the development of industries and help the members to remove their difficulties, besides the procurement of scarce raw materials. A list of the associations registered in the District, along with the dates of their registration, are given below:

- 1 Abohar Cotton and Grain Merchants Association, 8 January 1969
Abohar.

2 Northern Railway welding and Trading 2 June 1976
Contractor's Association, Ferozpur

Besides the above associations, a number of unregistered associations are also functioning in the District.

(j) Welfare of the Industrial Labour

Activities relating to the intellectual, physical, moral and economic betterment of the workers, whether by the employers, by the government or by other agencies, over and above what is laid down by law or what is normally expected as part of contractual benefits, for which the workers may have bargained are known as welfare activities. These activities may include housing, medical and educational facilities, nutrition (including provision of canteens), facilities for rest and recreation, co-operative societies, day nurseries and creches, the provision of sanitary accommodation, schemes of social security, etc. The growing attention that is being paid to labour problems at the present time is an indication of the increasing importance of the working class in the economic and social structure of modern communities.

Industrialization began comparatively late in India and its progress has been neither rapid nor smooth. The origin of the labour-welfare work in the country may be traced back to the time of the World War I (1914—18). Till then, the welfare of the workers was hardly thought of owing to the ignorance and illiteracy of the workers themselves, the short-sightedness of the employers, the carelessness of the State and the indifference of the public. But, since the World War I, it has been expanding steadily, mostly on a voluntary basis. The economic depression also did much to temper the interest which the war had kindled. The Government and the industrialists were prompted to take active interest in welfare work owing to the discontent and industrial unrest that prevailed in the country and to some extent owing to the moral pressure brought to bear on them by the work of the International Labour Office. The World War II (1939—45) revived and strengthened the welfare movement and the benefits resulting from a proper regard for the health and well-being of the employees were gradually recognized, and the employers co-operated with the Government in the provision of improved amenities.

It was only during the World War II that the Government of India started taking active interest in promoting welfare schemes for industrial workers. Efforts in this direction were redoubled with the achievement of Independence in 1947 and the emergence of India as a Republic in 1950, wedded to the idea of a Welfare State. The Government has also

passed various labour laws, mainly with a view to making the lives of the workers happier and healthier. The salient features of the various labour laws in force and the labour-welfare schemes introduced thereunder are discussed in Chapter XVII, 'Other Social Services'.



CHAPTER VI

BANKING, TRADE AND COMMERCE

(A) Banking and Finance

(a) History of Indigenous Banking

Banking was known and practised in India at a time when the rest of the world had yet to evolve a medium of exchange in the form of money. "From time immemorial", says M.L. Tannan, "the banker has been an indispensable pillar of Indian Society. There is plenty of evidence to show that even prior to the advent of ccidental ideas, India was no stranger to the conception of banking."¹ Traces can be found of banking in India in the Vedic Period (about 2000 B.C.) in the form of money-lending. The Buddhist *Jatakas* (or birth stories), the *Mahabharata*, *Kautilaya's Arthashastra* and earlier *dharmaśatas* also refer to the practising of banking in those periods. Manu also testifies to the existence of banking and he devotes two chapters to deposits and pledges and the recovery of debt'. Similarly, the Muslim historians of the twelfth century also refer to the existence of Multanis and Shroffs, who financed the trade and commerce of the country and also acted as bankers to the then rulers. The indigenous banking system is still continuing, despite the fact that the joint-stock banks have made a remarkable progress.

The institution of indigenous banking in this part of the country is as old as anywhere else. The lack of peace, and the insecurity of life in the region due to the successive invasions from the north-west disturbed the economy and, as such, there was slump in trade and industry and also in the agricultural sector. The position, however, improved much with the rise and consolidation of the Sikh power. Moreover, agriculture was a low-paying occupation and depended upon the vagaries of nature. The failure of crops, either due to the spread of crop diseases or due to the failure of rains, was not uncommon. There were no subsidiary occupations in the villages. Hence the income of the farmer was low. The people of the urban and rural areas had, therefore, to resort to credit for survival.

In the urban areas, there were banks who provided the people with finance for trade and industry. They advanced money mostly against security to lessen risk. The rate of interest charged by them was also low, i.e. 6 to 9 per cent per annum. They gave loans, keeping in view the objective of the borrower. Then there were urban money-lenders who advanced loans for purposes of consumption. Such loans, being mostly without security, involved greater risk. Moreover, the clients were irregular and unpunctual in repaying the loans. Accordingly, the rate of interest charged on such loans was higher.

¹M.L. Tannan *Banking Law and Practice in India* (Bembay 1947), p. 1.

The rural money-lender occupied a very prominent position in the rural economy. He served the agriculturist in a variety of ways by advancing money to him for buying food and other necessities of life, for performing social and religious ceremonies and for securing agricultural requisites, such as seeds and bullocks. During drought and famine, the agriculturist took loans from the money-lender against the security of agricultural land and paid them back at the time of harvest.

In course of time, the 'friend in need' became actuated by greed and usury and exploited the agriculturist, by charging exorbitant rates of interest. In some cases, interest was many times the principal and the poor borrower was unable to pay off the debt, with the result that the usurer deprived him, of his land and other belongings. From 1870 onwards, when the value of land began to rise, the money-lender imposed such hard terms of mortgaging land that a mortgage always ended in the land being sold to him by the agriculturist to clear off his debt. To safeguard the interests of the cultivators (borrowers), the Government passed the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900. This Act no doubt curbed the malpractices of the village money-lender, but it did not improve the lot of the peasant. It merely replaced the *sahukar* by the agriculturist money-lender.

The Commission on Agriculture recommended the starting of the co-operative movement and, consequently, the first Co-operative Societies Act was passed in 1904. Under this Act, the first co-operative credit society in the District was registered on 4 October 1911, in the village of Khilchi Qadim (Firozpur Tahsil). The progress of co-operative societies in the Punjab encouraged the Government to pass the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912, which widened the scope and permitted the registration of secondary societies. Thus there came into existence the Fazilka Central Co-operative Bank, Fazilka, in 1915, followed by the Firozpur Central Co-operative Bank, Firozpur, in 1924.

The position of the village money-lender was further worsened by the passage of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts, Act, 1930; the Punjab Relief of Indebtedness Act, 1934; The Punjab Debtors' Protection Act, 1936, and the Punjab Registration of Money-lenders' Act, 1938. These enactments resulted in the contraction of credit operations by the money-lenders. But the needs of the agriculturist were not lessened. So some agency, which could provide the agriculturist with funds was needed.

The passage of the above-mentioned enactments by the Government also affected the agriculturists money-lender. He, therefore, explored other avenues to invest his surplus funds and, finally, he was effectively checked, when the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1900, was repealed with the enforcement of the Constitution of India on 26 January 1950.

(b) General Credit Facilities**(i) Indebtedness, Rural and Urban.**

Indebtedness means the amount of loan which the people owe to the various agencies and individuals. It may be studied under two heads: rural indebtedness and urban indebtedness. Rural indebtedness is the amount of loan borrowed by the ruralists. Such loans are mostly unproductive, as these are taken for incurring expenditure on performing ceremonies, for meeting consumption needs and for indulging in bad practices, such as drinking and not much of the borrowed money is used for improving land and its productivity or for mechanizing farming. The main agency for borrowing money is the village money-lender. Borrowing continues despite the co-operative movement having progressed much and banking facilities having been extended. On the other hand, urban indebtedness implies the amount of loan taken by the urban people from various lending agencies, such as banks, insurance companies and chit fund companies. But unlike the rural debt, the urban debt is highly productive, because mostly the borrowers are either businessmen or traders or industrialists, who borrow either to start new ventures or to expand the existing ones. This debt, thus, results in increasing the income of the State and may generate more employment.

Rate of Interest.—Interest is paid by the borrower to the lender. As there are different lending agencies in the District, the rate of interest charged by them is not uniform. It differs with the nature of the loan, the period involved (i.e. a higher rate of interest for a short period and a lower rate for a long period), the risk involved, the nature of surety, etc. In the District, the commercial banks charge that rate of interest which is fixed by the Government of India from time to time. However, the loaning policies of the co-operatives are being increasingly orientated to serve the needs of the weaker sections. The co-operative societies advance loans at the rate of interest ranging from 10.5 to 13.5 per cent. The loans advanced under the State Aid to Industries Act 1935, carry only 4 per cent rate of interest. The local money-lenders charge a much higher rate, varying from 18 to 25 percent or even more. In some cases, the interest is recovered in kind at the harvest time. There is no definite method of calculating interest. The rate of interest is decided at the time of advancing the loan which ordinarily is taken during lean months and is repaid at the harvest time. Generally, the borrower has to repay 1½ or 2 times the quantity borrowed. Such loans are without security and are taken by landless labourers. This method of advancing loans is vanishing fast.

(ii) Role of Private Money-lenders and Financiers

Money-lenders.—Although the importance of private money-lender, at one time the only lending agency, has not completely vanished, it is definitely declining fast. There was a time when other lending agencies, such as banks, were not sufficiently developed. Then the money-lender was holding the key position with respect to the providing of finance not only in the rural areas, but also in the urban areas. The banian, who had a relatively adequate level of literacy, exploited the rural people to the maximum; so much so that even a number of generations of innocent, ignorant and illiterate farmers continued to remain in his clutches. He used to charge a very high rate of interest. He was mainly interested in realizing the interest and not in recovering the principal. At times, he either usurped the land or did not leave even a single grain of corn to the poor farmer after harvest. But all this does not happen now because of the spread of education and the imposition of legal restrictions on the money-lenders, the co-operative movement and the development of other lending agencies, such as banks (joint-stock as well as co-operative).

There were several methods of advancing loans, such as loans on personal surety against produce, land, ornaments and property. Generally, the banian or money-lender had a grocery shop in the village and advanced money to the needy persons and collected the loan at the time of harvest by taking the produce. He used to charge different rates of interest from different persons. Generally, he advanced 60 to 70 per cent of the face value of the property pledged against the loan advanced. Higher rates of interest were charged for the loans advanced against intangible surety, than those against the tangible one. After the passing of the Punjab Regulation of Accounts Act, 1930, which made it binding on the part of the money-lender to maintain accounts, most of the transactions were carried on either orally or against ornaments. The village money-lender, of course, came to the rescue of the villagers at the time of famine, scarcity or at the birth of a son or at the time of the marriage of a son or a daughter, when a lot of extravagant expenditure was to be incurred. Keeping in view these circumstances, a Punjabi saying, *Guru bina gat nahin, shah bina pat nahin* (No salvation without a guru, and no respectability in society without a money-lender), holds good even to-day.

With the spread of other financial institutions and the change in the policies of the Government, the money-lenders' business is decreasing and they are leaving it altogether. The hereditary money-lenders, however, still continue the business, because they find it quite profitable. Their chief importance lies in their simple procedure of advancing loans, as against the lengthy and cumbersome process of joint-stock and co-operative

banks, which the illiterate and ignorant villagers cannot easily comprehend. In 1979-80, there were 361 registered money-lenders in the district, besides a number of unregistered ones.

(iii) Government and Semi-Government Credit Agencies.

With the decay of the system of indigenous money-lending as a source of finance in rural as well as in urban areas, the gap has been filled by the governmental/semi-governmental credit agencies. These are the Punjab Financial Corporation, the *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission, joint-stock banks, Co-operative banks and co-operative societies. The Punjab Financial Corporation provides medium and long-term loans to industrial concerns established in the State. It provides finances up to 20 lakhs of rupees in the case of public limited company or a registered co-operative society and up to 10 lakhs in other cases. The Corporation charges rates of interest from 10.25 to 13.50 per cent. The loans advanced by the Corporation are repayable in 10 years. These loans are advanced against hypothecation of land, buildings, plants, machinery etc., with a margin of 40 per cent of the net assessed value. In the case of Government guarantee, the margin is reduced from 40 to 20 per cent. The *Khadi* and Village Industries Commission and the Industries Department also advance loan.

Agriculturists and industrialists also get loans from the Government. To agriculturists, loans are advanced for the purchase of seed, cattle, tractors, agricultural implements, etc. Loans are also advanced to small-scale industries under the State Aid to Industries Act, 1935. These are mentioned in chapters on 'Agriculture and Irrigation' and 'Industries'. In addition to these, co-operative societies advance loans against promissory notes. After the nationalization of certain banks in 1969 and 1980, the joint-stock banks have extended the loan facilities to the agriculturists, industrialists, traders and consumers against personal sureties, shares, agricultural commodities and other easily marketable goods.

(iv) Joint Stock Banks

Banking has played a very important part in the economic development all over the world. In India, banking on Western lines started from the beginning of the nineteenth century. The first attempts were, however, not successful.

The first joint-stock bank to be established at Firozpur was the Punjab National Bank, which was opened in 1895. Another branch of it was opened in 1902.

The Swadeshi Movement in 1905 gave great stimulus to the starting of Indian banks and their number increased remarkably during the boom of 1906-13. The boom continued till it was overtaken by the crash

of 1913—17, when several banks failed. In 1932, again there were bank failures. During the World War II (1939—45) and the immediate post-war years, the Indian joint-stock banking made rapid progress. The partition of India in 1947 and its aftermath gave it a temporary set-back.

The Banking Companies Act, 1949, did much to improve the efficiency and the tone of the banking system.

The number of banking offices at various places in the District as on 31 December 1978, was as under:

	No. of Banking offices
State Bank of India	.. 15
State Bank of Patiala	.. 2
Punjab National Bank	.. 17
Other Commercial Banks	.. 33
Co-operative Banks	.. 35
Total	.. 102

(*Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1980, p. 523*)

The different leading joint-stock banks which have their branches in the District, are as under :

- 1 Punjab National Bank
- 2 State Bank of India
- 3 State Bank of Patiala
- 4 State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur
- 5 Allahabad Bank
- 6 Bank of Baroda
- 7 Bank of India
- 8 Bank of Maharashtra
- 9 Canara Bank

- 10 Indian Overseas Bank
- 11 Union Bank of India
- 12 United Commercial Bank
- 13 Laxami Commercial Bank
- 14 Oriental Bank of Commerce
- 15 Punjab and Sind Bank
- 16 New Bank of India
- 17 Central Bank of India
- 18 The Firozpur Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd.
- 19 The Fazilka Central Co-operative Bank, Ltd.

The total deposits and bank credit in the District as on 31 March 1980 amounted to Rs 5,593 lakhs and Rs 6,048 lakhs respectively.

(v) Co-operative Credit

The idea of using co-operation in India as a means of combating rural indebtedness and the supplying of credit was first suggested by Sir Frederick Nicholson in 1897. He pleaded forcefully for the introduction of co-operative credit societies in India. Although no action was taken on his report, yet some districts established a few pioneer co-operative societies on their own initiative.

The passage of the Co-operative Societies Acts of 1904 and 1912 gave birth to the co-operative credit societies in the country. Credit co-operative occupy a predominant position in the Indian co-operative movement. Among these, the agricultural credit societies constitute the most important part and they by far outnumber all other types of co-operatives. Agricultural credit may be either short-term or long-term. The short-term co-operative credit has a sort of federal structure, a three-storeyed organization. In every State, this structure consists of the State Co-operative Banks at the apex or top, Primary Credit Societies at the village level, with Central Co-operative Banks coming in between at the district level.

Co-operative Credit Societies.—The Co-operative movement in the district was started in 1912. It was received with great enthusiasm by the poorer agriculturists. The movement received a great impetus from two generous gifts of Rs 8,000 each, made in 1912 and 1914 by a former Settlement Officer of the District, Mr. E.B. Francis (ICS., retired).

By 1914, the operations had started in Zira, Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils. As on 31st July 1914, there existed 171 societies, all of which, except one, were agricultural and of unlimited liability as per particulars given below :

Class of Societies	Societies	Members	Working capital Rs
Agricultural	..	170	5,33,676
Non-agricultural	..	1	21,136

In 1978-79, there were 422 co-operative credit (308 agricultural and 114 non-agricultural) societies in the District. Their functions are to mobilize the savings of their members and to advance loans to them at a very reasonable rate of interest for productive purposes.

The details pertaining to the working of the agricultural and non-agricultural co-operative credit societies in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 are given in Appendices I and II at pages 187 and 188 respectively.

(c) Insurance and Small Savings

Insurance.—Before the nationalization of the life insurance business by the Government of India in 1956, a number of companies, covering life and other risks, were doing business in the District, though they had no regular office here. Only the agents and inspectors of these companies procured business for their respective insurance companies.

The first branch of the Life Insurance Corporation of India was opened in the District at Firozpur on 1 September 1956. Later on, it opened its branch at Abohar on 20 September 1958 to cater for the insurance needs of the people in the District. In order to intensify the drive for insurance in the rural areas, the Corporation appointed development officers and agents at different centres in the District. Their branch-wise number, as on 31 March 1980, was as follows :

Branch	Number of Development Officers	Number of Agents
Firozpur	..	11
Abohar	..	12

The Life Insurance Corporation advances loans to the policy holders as well as to the Government and semi-Government concerns. It charges interest at the rate of 9 per cent and 11.5 per cent against policies and houses respectively.

The business secured by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given in Appendix III on page 189.

Before the nationalization of the general insurance companies on 1 January 1973, the Life Insurance Corporation had also started the general insurance business on 1 January 1964, in addition to life insurance. But after their nationalization, the general insurance companies emerged as an apex body, known as the General Insurance Corporation. Under this Corporation, the general insurance business is done by four companies, viz. The Oriental Fire and General Insurance Company Ltd., The New India Insurance Company Ltd., The National Insurance Company Ltd., and The United India Fire and General Insurance Company Ltd. According to the functioning of these companies, the general insurance policies of all types are issued for only one year and these are renewable every year. Under the general insurance, the risks covered are of three types, viz. fire, marine (transportation of goods), miscellaneous insurance. Miscellaneous insurance includes motor insurance, besides other types of insurance, each as fidelity guarantee, aviation insurance, burglary, personal accidents etc.

Small Savings.--Small Saving is a scheme sponsored by the Central Government and is controlled by the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs). The headquarters of the Head of the Department of National Savings Organization, i.e. the National Savings Commissioner for India, are at Nagpur. The scheme has been started to induce people to save. The funds, thus raised, are used for the development of the country. In the States, the National Savings Organization is controlled by the Regional Director, National Savings, Government of India. In the Punjab, the Regional Director's office is at Chandigarh. The Regional Director, National Savings (Government of India), Punjab, has under him four Assistant Regional Directors, National Savings, i.e. at Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Chandigarh. Generally, there is one District Savings Officer, National Savings Scheme, in each district but in some districts there are two. In the Firozpur District, there is one District Savings Officer at Firozpur.

The Director, Small Savings, Punjab, Chandigarh, is the head of the State Government's Small Savings Department. This Directorate has been set up to have better co-ordination between the Central Organization

and the State Government. At the district level, the District Savings Officer is the co-ordinating agency between the Central Organization and the district authorities.

On 31 March 1980, there were 96 agents in the District, for canvassing, and for propagating the Small Savings Scheme on commission basis. The gross and net investments of the Small Savings Scheme in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 are given below :

Year	Gross Investments (Rs)	Net investments (Rs)
1972-73	2,79,66,000	+42,74,000
1973-74	2,82,02,000	+36,07,000
1974-75	3,83,72,000	+86,98,000
1975-76	4,27,24,000	-3,65,000
1976-77	3,03,70,000	-73,33,000
1977-78	3,32,89,000	+14,18,000
1978-79	4,48,84,000	+135,79,000
1979-80	5,33,97,000	+186,51,000

(Source : District Savings Officer, Firozpur)

(d) Currency and Coinage

Before the introduction of the system of decimal coinage, the system of old coinage, inherited from the British, was in vogue. Under the old system, a rupee was divided into 2 half-rupee coins (*dheli* or *athanni*), 4 quarters (*pauli* or *choaani*), 8 two-anna coins(*duani*), 16 annas, 32 *takas*, 64 paise and 192 pies.

Under the system of decimal coinage, started on 1 April 1957, a rupee consists of 100 paise, with different coins of the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 paise. Currency notes are issued in the denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 rupees. The use of both old and new coins continued side by side up to 1 April 1964, after which the old system was entirely replaced by the new one. For some time, the people felt a little difficulty in transactions as they had been accustomed to counting according to the old system. But, in course of time, they became acquainted with the decimal system which is more convenient for transactions.

(B) Trade and Commerce

The Firozpur District has never been an industrial district, although its importance as an agricultural tract has not been inconsiderable. There was a lot of trading activity in agricultural produce but very little in industrial goods. The District had to meet its requirements, other than agricultural goods from outside.

Before the introduction of the railways into the District in the beginning of the twentieth century, the trade in it was concentrated at Firozpur and Fazilka. It was carried on with country boats, as both the towns are situated very near the Satluj. But, with the opening up of the railways the trade via the river almost came to an end. The trade of the District was concentrated in the numerous markets along the different railways, the most important of them being Firozpur, Fazilka and Abohar. There were also markets at Talwandi Bhai, Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai and Zira, but these places did not flourish well. A good deal of the trade was also carried on by other markets, viz. Jagraon, Moga, Kot Kapura, Faridkot, Malaut and Muktsar.

Fazilka was renowned for its trade in wool, for which it formed an international market. Fazilka claims to be the largest wool mart in the Punjab. Besides, a large quantity from Bikaner, wool came here from the greater part of the Punjab. England's patent press and two local presses, started by private enterprise, were used for baling the wool. After that it was forwarded to Liverpool, Kanpur and elsewhere. The grain trade also was quite considerable. Altogether, a good deal of goods were exported from Fazilka by the two railways the narrow-gauge line via Kot Kapura and Bathinda and the broad-gauge line via Macleod Ganj to Karachi. Fazilka was also the headquarter of a Central Co-operative Bank.

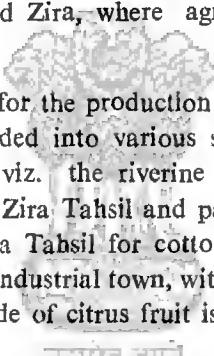
The partition of the country in 1947 placed the District on the Indo-Pakistan border. Both the important markets of the District, namely Firozpur and Fazilka, are quite near the border. The trade of the District, naturally, received a great set-back. However, with the passage of time, the position has improved to some extent. There are 10 regulated markets in the District for handling agricultural produce.

The principal items brought into the District are cloth (cotton, synthetic, woollen and silken), machinery of almost every kind, *karyana* items, luxury goods, etc. The principal items sent out of it are foodgrains, wheat, rice, cotton, agricultural implements, etc.

(a) Course of Trade

The usual course of trade in the District is, as elsewhere from the producer to the consumer via the middlemen. There is no direct link between the producer and the consumer. The main types of middlemen are wholesalers, retailers and commission agents or *arhtias*.

Being an agricultural tract, the main trade of the District is agricultural produce, which is disposed of through the dealers, who are the members of a regulated market committee. The bulk of the agricultural produce is brought to the nearby *mandis* and is sold to the traders, who mostly send it to other *mandis* by road or by rail. A few traders have also opened their branches in the villages to procure the agricultural produce at cheaper rates. This procedure also helps the farmers who are saved from the botheration of bringing the produce to the *mandis*. The District has a few big *mandis* at Makhu, Dharmkot, Talwandi Bhai, Firozpur, Fazilka, Abohar and Zira, where agricultural commodities are marketed on a large scale.



The District is known for the production of cotton, wheat, rice, oil-seeds, etc. It can be divided into various sectors as regards the production of major crops, viz. the riverine tract of the Firozpur and Zira tahsils for rice ; the Zira Tahsil and parts of the Firozpur Tahsil for wheat and the Fazilka Tahsil for cotton. Abohar in the Fazilka Tahsil has emerged as an industrial town, with half a dozen cotton factories. Cultivation and trade of citrus fruit is also steadily developing in this town.

(b) Trade Centres

(i) Regulated and Unregulated Markets.—The money-lenders exploited the poor farmers not only by charging higher rates of interest, but also by purchasing their produce at lower rates. They also practised some malpractices, such as the use of non-standard weights, i. e., they had different weights for selling and buying the produce. In order to save the peasantry from exploitation and to ensure a fair price for their produce, the State Government passed the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1939. The Act provides for the regulation of markets through market committees which represent the growers, commission agents and traders, local bodies and the State Government. The market committees standardize various market practices and charge and enforce the use of standard weights, thus ensuring a fair deal to the producer. There are 10 regulated markets in the District at Firozpur City, Firozpur Cantonment, Guru Har Sahai, Talwandi Bhai, Zira, Dharmkot, Makhu, Fazilka, Abohar and Jalalabad.

All the regulated markets follow one and the same system for the marketing of produce. The rules and regulations framed by the local market committees pertain to the hours of work and the incidental charges to be collected from the sellers and buyers. The general system of marketing is the open auction in the markets. This method is recognised by law and is fair to the producer, as the chances of mal-practices are fewest. All the transactions are done through the commission agents, who charge 1.56 per cent as commission from the buyers. The commission includes sundry charges, such as commission and weighing and cleaning charges. Before the passage of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961, the sellers were required to pay the commission charges, but, under this Act, the buyers have to bear these charges. The main commodities for which transactions take place in the regulated markets are foodgrains, cotton, oil seeds, paddy, *gur*, chillies and potatoes.

All the regulated markets are liable to implement the provisions of the Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets Act, 1961, for regulating the trade in agricultural produce.

There is no unregulated market in the District.

(ii) Fairs, Melas and other Rural Marketing Centres

Fairs and Festivals.—Fairs and festivals have a special place in the Indian life. A list of such fairs and festivals, held in the District, is given in Chapter III, 'People' on pages 88 to 89.

FIROZPUR

The fairs and festivals which have some trade significance are as follows :
Fairs and festivals of trade significance in Firozpur District

Town/village	Fair/Festival	Date and duration	Significance and legend	Approximate number of visitors and the radius covered	Castes/communities	Commodities sold
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jalalabad	.. Cattle fair	Magh and Asoj (January-February and September-October) one week	Commercial	4,000 14 km	All	Animals
Fazilka	.. Cattle Fair	Phagan (February-March) Eight days	Commercial	5,000 16 km	All	
Abohar	.. Camel and cattle fair	Phagan and Bhadon (February-March, and August-September) one week	Commercial	15,000 From Punjab and Rajasthan	All	Camel and cattle
Tahsil Firozpur						
Bazidpur	.. Basant	Magh Sud 5 (January-February) Two days	Seasonal and recreational. In the memory of Guru Hargobind in whose name a gurudwara has been constructed here. Guru Gobind Singh also came here and since then, the fair has been held every year.	20,000 32 km	Hindus and Sikhs	Cloth, leather goods, agricultural implements, books

Talwandi Bhai	..	Cattle fair	Bhadon 15 (August-September) Three days	Commercial	2,000	All	Cattle and other animals
Zira	..	Cattle fair	Chet, Jeth, Poh (March-April, May-June and December-January) Five days	Commercial	5,000 10 km	All	Cattle and other animals
Dharmkot	..	Cattle fair	Baisakh (April-May) Five days	Commercial	2,000	All	Cattle and other animals

(Census of India, 1961, District Census Handbook No. 12, Firozpur District, pp. 106-123)



Cattle fairs.—Cattle fairs are held at Jalalabad, Fazilka, Abohar, Talwandi Bhai, Zira, Dharmkot, and serve as centres for the sale and purchase of cattle and other animals. These are held on different dates almost throughout the year, and last a week or so. Cattle fairs are also held on the occasions of the Dussehra and Baisakhi fairs.

(c) Co-operation in Trade

Co-operative Marketing.—There is a District Wholesale Co-operative Marketing and Supply Society at Firozpur. It was registered on 3 October 1953. It handles the distribution of fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, kerosene oil, pumping-sets, etc. The society has a working capital of 72.57 lakhs of rupees.

In every market, there is a co-operative marking society, functioning as the commission agent, like other *arhtias* in the market for marketing the produce of the area. These societies also handle the distribution of the above-mentioned articles. Their status is far better than that of individual commission agents in view of the patronage by the Government. A list of the registered co-operative marketing societies functioning in the District is given below:

Name of Society	Date of registration
1 The Abohar Co-operative Marketing Society, Abohar	.. 30 July 1926
2 The Guru Har Sahai-Co-operative Marketing Society, Gur Har Sahai	.. 5 February 1929
3 The Talwandi Bhai Co-operative Marketing Society Talwandi Bhai	.. 29 November 1948
4 The Fazilka Co-operative Marketing Society, Fazilka	.. 2 November 1953
5 The Firozpur Cantonment Co-operative Market- ing Society, Firozpur Cantonment	.. 1 June 1954
6 The Jalalabad Co-operative Marketing Society, Jalalabad	.. 17 March 1956
7 The Zira Co-operative Marketing Society, Zira	17 August 1956

Name of Society	Date of registration
8 The Makhu Co-operative Marketing Society, Makhu	.. 28 March 1957
9 The Dharmkot Co-operative Marketing Society, Dharmkot	.. 1960-61
10 The Firozpur City Co-operative Marketing Society, Firozpur City	.. 1 August 1967

Before the co-operative marketing began to function, the producers were facing much difficulty in marketing their produce. This difficulty has been removed to a great extent by the co-operative marketing societies. A lower rate of commission is charged for marketing the produce. Moreover, a good number of godowns have been constructed, both in the rural and urban areas for providing storage facilities. The number of godowns, owned by the co-operative marketing societies in the District, as on 30 June 1979, was 12, with a storage capacity of 3,300 tonnes. The charges for storing the produce are very nominal. Nothing is charged, if the godown is used for a week or so. These societies also undertake the distribution of agricultural accessories and consumer goods, such as sugar and kerosene oil.

The work done by the co-operative marketing societies in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is shown in Appendix IV, on page 190.

Co-operative Consumers' Stores.—This scheme was started by the Government of India. Under it, a number of primary consumers' stores around separate wholesale stores were to be opened in all towns and cities, with a population of 50,000 or above.

There are two Central Co-operative Consumers' Stores in the District, viz. the Firozpur Central Co-operative Consumers' Store Ltd., Firozpur (registered in 1963), and the Abohar Central Co-operative Consumers' Store Ltd., Abohar (registered in 1967). Their main aim is to ensure an equitable distribution of various kinds of articles to the consumers at relatively cheap rates. On 30 June 1980, these stores were running 14 primary consumers stores and 43 link societies for supplying consumer goods in the District. Their membership was 5,305 and the working capital was 18.57 lakhs of rupees.

(d) State Trading

State trading in foodgrains was introduced into the State to provide the people with essential commodities at reasonable rates. This scheme was introduced into the District in 1958-59. A number of fair-price shops were opened at various places in 1960, when the scarcity of wheat-flour, sugar, etc. was felt. This step was taken to check black marketing and ensure fair prices to the consumers.

The State Trading in foodgrains(wheat) was introduced into the State in 1959. The total quantity of foodgrains purchased by the Food and Supply Department, under the Scheme, from the important markets in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year	Foodgrains	Quantity purchased (Tonnes)
1972-73	.. Wheat	84,635
1973-74	.. Do	89,540
1974-75	Do (Levy taken by the State Government)	49,190
1975-76	.. Do	99,938
1976-77	.. Do	1,07,727
1977-78	.. Do	1,35,290
1978-79	.. Do	1,19,453
1979-80	.. Do	1,86,464

(Source : District Food and Supplies Controller, Firozpur)

(e) Merchant's and Consumer's Associations and Organs for the Dissemination of Trade News

The three Merchants' associations functioning in the District are the Abohar Grain Merchant's Association, Abohar, the Abohar *Kachcha Arhtias* Association, Abohar, and the Firozpur Sugar Merchants Association, Firozpur. These associations look after the interests of the member-traders. There is, however, no consumer's association in the District.

Market Intelligence.—Almost all the daily newspapers disseminate market news to the public. In addition, there are some commercial dailies and periodicals which serve this purpose. But there is no such daily or journal published in the District. The All-India Radio is the most important and effective instrument in this respect. The rates of various commodities in different markets in the State are broadcast daily. In some of the marketing centres, market news are also communicated to dealers at different places through correspondence and trunk calls. The co-operative marketing societies receive market information cards from allied societies.

(f) Weights and Measures

Before the passage of Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956 (Government of India) and the Punjab Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958, *Kachcha* and pucca systems of weights were in vogue in the District. Throughout the Zira Tahsil and in the eastern part of the Firozpur Tahsil, the following *kachcha* weights were in most general use:

(i) <i>Sarsahi</i>	=	2½ tolas (<i>tola</i> =one silver rupee in weight)
(ii) Two <i>sarsahis</i>	=	<i>adh pao</i>
(iii) Four <i>sarsahis</i>	=	<i>pao</i>
(iv) Two <i>pao</i> s	=	<i>adh ser</i>
(v) Four <i>pao</i> s (or 36 tolas)	=	<i>ser</i>
(vi) Two <i>ser</i> s	=	<i>doseri</i>
(vii) Two-half <i>ser</i> s	=	<i>dha-seri</i>
(viii) Five <i>ser</i> s	=	<i>panjseri</i>
(ix) Ten <i>ser</i> s	=	<i>dhari</i>
(x) 40 <i>ser</i> s	=	<i>man</i> (maund)

The *kachcha* maund equalled 18 standard seers. But in all the markets and industrial centres of the District and in the entire tahsils of Fazilka and the western part of the Firozpur Tahsil, the system of pucca weights was in common use and these weights were used in weighing grains, firewood, vegetables, country medicines, etc. except jewellery, when one rupee was taken to be equal to 11½ *mashas* in weight and one *tola* equal to 12 *mashas*.

No measures of capacity were in use in the Zira Tahsil. In some of the riverine villages of the Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils, the following measures of capacity were freely used :

(a) <i>Paropi</i>	=	<i>60 tolas</i>
(b) Four <i>paropis</i>	=	<i>topa</i>
(c) Four <i>topas</i>	=	<i>pai</i>
(d) Four <i>pais</i>	=	<i>man</i> (<i>maund</i>)
(e) $12\frac{1}{2}$ <i>mans</i>	=	<i>mani</i>

In the riverine area of the Firozpur Tahsil, one *paropi* was equal to one seer (i.e. 80 *tolas*) and not 60 *tolas* as in the riverine area of the Fazilka Tahsil. These measures were used by the *zamindars* when dividing the produce in measuring the seed to be sown or while making payments to village menials or lending seed to one another. The system had gradually becoming obsolete.

It may be stated that although for purposes of calculations in transactions, one *paropi* in the Fazilka Tahsil was supposed to contain 60 *tolas* or 12 *chataks* of grain, as a matter of fact, different grain weigh differently, when measured with this measure of capacity. For instance, one *paropi* of wheat or gram is equal to $12\frac{1}{2}$ *chataks* in weight, whereas in the case of barley and coarse unhusked rice, it is equal to 10 *chataks* and in the case of husked rice, *mash* and *moth*, it is $14\frac{1}{2}$ *chataks*. The same proportionate increase or decrease is found in the case of other multiple measures of the *paropi*. Similarly, in the riverine part of the Firozpur Tahsil, different classes of grains weigh differently in the *paropi*.

The following measures of length were used in the District :

For building purposes.—

$$(a) 12 \text{ inches} = 1 \text{ foot}$$

$$(b) 3 \text{ feet} = 1 \text{ yard}$$

(c) Straight hand (*sidha hath*)

from the elbow to the
fingertips) = $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet

(d) Curved hand (*murmā hath*)

from the elbow to the
fingertips and up to the
wrist again) = 2 feet

The last two measures (c) and (d) were used in the Fazilka Tahsil only.

For measuring cloth

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) 2½ inches or 3 fingers | .. 1 <i>girah</i> |
| (b) 16 <i>girahs</i> | .. 1 yard |

The following measures of area were in use :

In the whole District
except in the Fazilka
Tahsil

In the Fazilka Tahsil

1 <i>karam</i>	= 60 inches	1 <i>karam</i>	= 57.157 inches
1 square <i>karam</i>	= 1 <i>sarsahi</i>	1 square <i>karam</i>	.. 1 <i>kachchi biswansi</i>
9 <i>sarsahis</i> or		3 <i>kachchi biswasi</i>	= 1 <i>pukki biswansi</i>
225 square feet	= 1 <i>marla</i>		
20 <i>marlas</i>	= 1 <i>kanal</i>	20 <i>biswansi</i>	= 1 <i>bigha</i>
8 <i>kanals</i>	= 1 <i>ghumaon</i>	2 <i>bighas</i>	= 1 <i>bigha</i>
9.68 <i>kanals</i>	= 1 acre	1 ½ <i>bighas</i>	= 1 acre

The passage of the Punjab Weights and Measures Act, 1941, brought some uniformity in the system of weights and measures. The metric weights and measures, under the Punjab Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1958 passed in pursuance of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1958, passed in pursuance of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956 (Government of India), were introduced into the District with effect from October 1958. In the case of weights, the use of old weights, too, was allowed for a period of two years and from October, 1960, the use of metric weights was made compulsory. In the case of measures, the use of measures previously in vogue was allowed for a period of one year, and, from April, 1962, the use of metric measures was made compulsory. The use of metric units also became obligatory from April, 1962.

In the beginning, the people felt some difficulty in understanding the system of new weights and measures, but, in course of time, they got accustomed to it.

The Inspectors, Weights and Measures at Firozpur and Abohar verify the weights, scales etc., used in the District.

(g) Storage and Warehousing

Before the setting up of the Punjab State Warehousing Corporation in 1958, the storage facilities were not only insufficient, but the methods of storage were also unscientific. The farmers, in the past, used to store the

produce in indigenous stores called *kothas* (bins) in their houses. These *kothas* were made of mud, mattings, etc. and were exposed to the ravages of rain and depredations of insect pests and rodents.

The State Government, therefore, provides all sorts of facilities for the storage of foodgrains on scientific lines in the rural as well as in the urban areas. It advances loans and subsidies to the co-operative agricultural societies for the construction of godowns in the villages. However, in the villages the old method of storage in *bharolas* and *bharolis* still continues. The marketing co-operative societies also get loans as well as subsidies from the Government for the construction of godowns for storing foodgrains etc. In the urban areas, especially in the *mandis*, the commission agents provide the farmers with storing facilities. At the railway stations, the produce is stored either in godowns or in sheds.

The Punjab State Warehousing Corporation was set up in 1958, under section 28 of the Agricultural Produce (Development and Warehousing) Corporation Act, 1956. It was reconstituted with effect from 1 November 1967 after the reorganization of the Punjab State under section 18 of the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962 (Parliament Act No. 58 of 1962),—*Vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 1200(G)-Agr.VIII/55/8602, dated 30 October 1967. In 1979-80, the Corporation was running its own warehouses at Talwandi Bhai, Zira and Jalalabad and warehouses in hired accommodation at Firozpur City, Talwandi Bhai, Makhu, Guru Har Sahai and Dharmkot.

The Corporation is a State undertaking, shared by the Punjab Government and the Central Warehousing Corporation, unequal ratio. Its main functions are to provide warehousing facilities for the scientific storage of foodgrains and other agricultural produce, besides the storage of fertilizers and manures to protect them against the depredations of insect pests, rodents, moisture, seepage, etc. The Corporation also undertakes the fumigation of the stocks under the Technical Advisory Scheme, after recovering fumigation charges at reasonable rates. The storage charges of warehousing have been as low as possible only to cover the actual expenses incurred, because the scheme is designed to run on no profit no loss basis. The stocks deposited in the warehouses of the Corporation are insured against the risks of the depositors. The Corporation stores the produce in hired as well as in its own constructed godowns.

The scheduled banks make advances to the depositors on the pledge of warehouse receipts according to the credit restrictions of the Reserve Bank of India.

APPENDIX I

(*Vide page 172*)**Work Done by the Co-operative Agricultural Credit Societies in Firozpur District from 1972-73 to 1979-80**

Co-operative year ending June	Number of co-operative societies at the end of the year	Membership			Loans advanced during the year (Rs in lakhs)	Deposits (Rs in lakhs)
		Societies	Individuals	Total		
1972-73	..	1,089	..	99,718	99,718	344.49
1973-74	..	1,089	..	1,01,987	1,01,987	419.19
1974-75	..	1,095	..	1,05,965	1,05,965	583.12
1975-76	..	1,095	..	1,07,582	1,07,582	622.99
1976-77	..	1,095	..	1,10,887	1,10,887	670.07
1977-78	..	1,095	..	1,14,350	1,14,350	832.62
1978-79	..	308	..	1,17,540	1,17,540	2,147.03
1979-80	..	309	..	1,21,761	1,21,761	2,180.35

(Source : Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)



ਗੁਰ ਪ੍ਰਸਾਦ ਸਿਵਾਨ

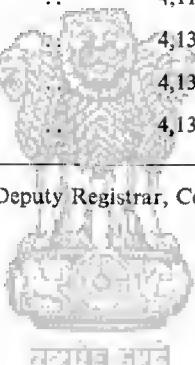
APPENDIX II

(Vide Page 172)

Work Done by the Co-operative Non-Agricultural Credit Societies in Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1979-80

Co-operative year ending June	Number of co-operative societies at the end of the year	Members			Loans advanced during the year (Rs in lakhs)	Deposits (Rs in lakhs)
		Societies	Individual	Total		
1972-73	..	114	..	4,096	4,096	1.76
1973-74	..	114	..	4,104	4,104	1.52
1974-75	..	114	..	4,109	4,109	1.00
1975-76	..	114	..	4,113	4,113	0.85
1976-77	..	114	..	4,113	4,113	1.72
1977-78	..	114	..	4,138	4,138	1.04
1978-79	..	114	..	4,138	4,138	..
1979-80	..	114	..	4,138	4,138	0.81

(Source: Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)



APPENDIX III
Business secured by the Life Insurance Corporation in Firozpur District from 1972-73 to 1979-80
(Vide Page 173)

	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80								
Name of Branch	Number of policies	Amount Rs in lakhs)	Number of policies	Amount (Rs in lakhs)	Number of policies	Amount (Rs in lakhs)	Number of policies	Amount (Rs in lakhs)								
Firozpur	1,945	198	2,120	226	1,385	193	1,785	306	1,787	333	1,849	358	1,635	318	2,193	435
Abohar ..	1,725	204	1,602	224	1,431	181	1,651	208	1,445	188	1,440	192	1,302	171	1,764	279

(Source: Divisional Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Divisional Office, Jalandhar)

APPENDIX IV

(Vide page 181)

Work Done by the Co-operative Marketing Societies In Firozpur District 1972-73 to 1979-80

Co-operative year ending June	Number of societies	Membership			Paid up share capital (Rs in lakhs)	Working capital (Rs in lakhs)	Value of goods marketed (Rs in lakhs)
		Individual Societies	Societies	Total			
1972-73	9	3,478	659	4,137	6·14	264·29	386·32
1973-74	10	4,229	913	5,142	8·37	209·41	610·30
1974-75	10	4,187	913	5,100	8·93	350·70	319·45
1975-76	10	4,392	918	5,310	9·03	364·91	387·06
1976-77	10	4,392	918	5,310	9·70	386·45	687·77
1977-78	10	4,399	921	5,320	10·00	516·28	858·89
1978-79	10	5,000	926	5,926	11·12	569·21	1,055·17
1979-80	10	5,556	926	5,982	19·70	558·52	919·21

(Source: Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur)



ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ

CHAPTER VII

COMMUNICATIONS

It has been stated aptly that if agriculture and industry are the body and bones of a national organism, communications are its nerves. The means of transport, such as roads, railways, waterways and airways, and the means of communication, such as the postal service, telegraph, telephone and the radio (including wireless communication), are important from the economic, military, administrative, social, cultural and political points of view. These are essential for the smooth working and development of economic life. Their importance is all the greater in a big country, such as India, with long distances to cover, vast areas to be developed and a large population to be served.

(a) Old-Time Trade Routes and Highways and Modes of Conveyance

Roads are the veins and arteries of a country through which every improvement runs. They are essential for agricultural and industrial development and for social progress and political unification. They connect the rural areas with the urban areas and markets. In an agricultural country, such as India, with its rural economy, people live mostly in villages, which can be connected to one another and to the towns by means of good roads.

The history of India abounds in references to road construction undertaken in the past and the road policy adopted by different rulers, early as well as medieval. The pace of road construction was, however, accelerated with the advent of the British rule. In the past, roads were built principally from the administrative and strategic stand point.

During the eighties of the nineteenth century, the principal roads in the Firozpur District were : The Grand Trunk Road, the road from Moga to Dharmkot and that from Talwandi Bhai to Zira. Besides, there were unmetalled roads : from Firozpur City to the Firozpur Cantonment, Fazilka and Malaut, from Firozpur to Chak Lakhewali, from Firozpur Cantonment to Ludhiana, from Firozpur to Indrisa, from Firozpur to Himatpura, from Jalalabad to Bathinda and from Fazilka to Sirsa (now in Haryana). These roads were, generally, in very indifferent condition and in many places were covered with sandhills which rendered cart transport difficult. The village roads were, generally, almost impassable owing to mud after rain in parts of the District where the soil was hard, whereas elsewhere sand-drifts impeded the way. Hence especially in the western part of the District, much of the transport was possible with camels.

(b) Road Transport

The District is fairly well served with roads, and leaving a few areas, transport position is quite comfortable. The post-partition period has seen a considerable expansion in road construction.

Roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department, municipal committees and the Cantonment Board. Most of the roads in the District are maintained by the Public Works Department and they include the National highways, the State highways, the District major and minor roads, other District roads and village roads.

(i) Classification of Roads .

The roads in the District are classified as National highways, State highways, District major roads, District minor roads, other District roads and roads maintained by the municipal committees and the Cantonment Board.

The total road length maintained by the Public Works Department (B & R) in the District as on 31 March 1980, was 3,258 km out of which 3,067 km was block-topped and 191 was water-bound macadam. Most of these roads are maintained by the State Public Works Department from the State funds, whereas the National Highway is maintained by it out of the funds provided by the Central Government. The roads within the limits of the Cantonment Board and the different municipalities of the District are maintained by the concerned board and municipal committees. A detailed description of each category of roads is given below :

National Highways.—The National highways are the main highways running through the length and breadth of the country, connecting major ports, foreign highways, capitals of large States, large towns and industrial areas. These are constructed and maintained by the State Public Works Department out of the funds provided by the Central Government. The total length of the National highways passing through the district is 149 km.

State Highways.—These are main trunk or arterial roads of a State and are connected to the National Highways, or to the highways of adjacent States, district headquarters and important cities within the State. The Government maintains these roads out of the State funds.

District Major Roads.—The roads serving the areas of production and markets and connecting them to one another or to the railways, the

State highways and the National highways in the District are called the district major roads. These are maintained by the State Public Works Department.

Other District Roads.—These roads are also maintained by the Public Works Department. They serve as important arteries of communication between different parts of the District.

Village Roads.—These roads connect different villages or groups of villages to one another and to the nearest road, the main highway, the railway or a ferry. The most important benefits from these approach or link roads are : facility for the exchange of local produce from agriculture and cottage industries with other goods needed in villages; access to welfare services, such as medical relief, sanitation, veterinary services and education, besides the development of cultural, intellectual and social activities by making the villages accessible to one another and to the towns. Some of these roads have been constructed by the co-operative efforts of the villagers themselves. The construction of link roads has been going on in the rural areas quite vigorously since the launching of this project in the State on 21st January, 1968. These roads are also maintained by the State Public Works Department.

Municipal Roads.—The roads connecting the local markets, streets, State highways, the National highways, railway stations, and other roads in the municipal area of a particular town are called municipal roads. These are maintained by the concerned municipal committees out of their own funds. Their total length in the district, as on 31 March 1980, was 165.11 km.

(ii) Vehicles and Conveyances

The old type of vehicles and conveyances are still very popular in the District, mainly because of their capacity to carry load and of their being the cheapest means of transport. They include bullock-carts, tongas, *majholis* and wooden *rehries*, beasts of burden, etc. The domesticated animals are also used for the purpose of transport from one part of the city to another. Bullock-carts, camels, donkeys, etc. are also used for carrying foodgrains and vegetables from the nearby villages to the markets in the towns. Generally, they are used in the towns and in the areas where roads are unmetalled or sandy. *Rehries* are used for transporting raw materials, cloth, cotton, bricks, wood and other goods.

Tempo, tongas and *ekkas* are still in use in the District. These are used for carrying luggage, agricultural produce and the people of the local areas or from the nearby villages to the towns. Motor-vehicles are

also useful goods-carriers from the railway stations to the commercial centres in the District and they serve as means of quick-transport and become popular owing to the rapid development and extension of roads. After Independence, there has been a rapid decline in the number of tongas and *ekkas*, primarily because of the emergence of cycle-rickshaws, which are cheaper and are a convenient means of transport.

The number of different types of motor vehicles registered in the District during 1974 to 1979 is given in Appendix I on page 200.

Automobiles.—Motor-cycles, scooters, jeeps, trucks and cars have also come to occupy a prominent and enviable place in the modern transport system. These are becoming popular in the cities with the well-to-do section of the people. In big towns, taxis and auto-rickshaws are also hired by the people to visit places of religious and historical importance and sometimes on important business. These are also used for quick transportation and are easily available and more convenient than the buses. Rich people maintain their own cars.

Cycles.—This vehicle was invented in 1867 and it appeared in the Indian cities in the beginning of the twentieth century. It is a cheap, flexible and handy means of transport and has become very common. It is a good conveyance for short distances within a city. The dairymen and cultivators use it to bring their milk and dairy products from the nearby villages to the cities and towns. Hawkers sell their commodities on their bicycles.

Cycle-Rickshaws.—Formerly used for carrying passengers at hill stations, this conveyance is now seen plying in every town and city. For short distances, the cycle-rickshaw is a very cheap & convenient means of transport. Some pullers purchase their own rickshaws, whereas other ply them on hire. Some businessmen maintain own rickshaws. The rapid construction of roads has also increased the mobility of the cycle-rickshaws from towns to the nearby villages and *vice versa*. Rickshaws have ousted tongas and *ekkas* in the cities to a very great extent.

The Punjab Government has formed by-laws for the rickshaw-pullers. Only physically fit persons between the ages of 18 and 45 are allowed to ply this vehicle. Only two persons are allowed to sit in a rickshaw.

Horse Carriages.—Although buses and rickshaws ply almost in every city, yet the horse-drawn carriages still occupy a prominent place in the rural and urban economy. Tongas, and *ekkas* are useful and cheap means of transportation for the villagers as well as for the local passengers in the towns. Nowadays, there is keen competition between the horse-drawn

carriages, on the one hand, and the motor-buses, motor-rickshaws, tempos and cycle-rickshaws on the other. Persons travelling with luggage in the possession still like to hire a tonga for going to a railway station and *vice versa*. Though an old type of conveyance, the horse-drawn carriages cannot be ousted completely.

(iii) Public Transport

Roads transport services, i.e. buses and trucks, are the most important means of mass transportation because of their route flexibility and convenient service. They involve a lower initial capital investment and can profitably run in areas with a moderate density of population. Their importance in the rural economy of the country is very great.

Before Independence, road transport was mostly in the hands of private owners whose main interest was to earn high dividends without due consideration to the interests of the public. With the rapid development and extension of roads, coupled with the development of industries and agriculture, road transport, both passenger and goods, has considerably increased. The Punjab Government has, therefore, started the nationalization of this public utility service gradually. Although most of the bus routes and major ones are operated by the Government roadways, yet a good number of them are still operated by private transport companies. Goods traffic is, however, still wholly in private hands.

State-owned Services.—Most of the important and major bus routes in the District are operated by the Punjab Roadways, Firozpur. The details of these are given in the Appendix II on pages 201 to 204.

Private Bus Service.—A number of bus routes in the District are operated by private transport companies. The particulars regarding these routes are given in Appendix III on pages 205 to 209.

(c) Railways

The railways play an important part in the transport system of a country and bring about many political, social and economic changes in the life of a community. They serve as a necessary link between internal and external trade of a country. They stimulate the growth of manufacturing industries by transporting raw materials such as coal, and also distribute finished goods all over the country. In addition, they have created a new industrial class of transport workers and have given much incentive to the traders. The railways are also of great service to armed forces with respect to their mobilization from one place to another at the time of internal and external disturbances and in the case of social disorders.

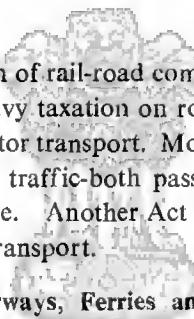
The Firozpur District is served by roads fairly well and better still by railways. The District lies in the Firozpur Divisions of the Northern Railway. The Firozpur Cantonment is the headquarters of the Divisional Superintendent and is an important railway junction. It is connected to Ludhiana in the east, Jalandhar in the north-east, Fazilka in the south-west and Bathinda in the south-east through broad-gauge lines. Five broad-gauge (The Firozpur Cantonment—Ludhiana Line, the Firozpur Cantonment—Jalandhar City Line, the Firozpur Cantonment—Fazilka Line; the Firozpur Cantonment—Bathinda-Delhi Line and Shri Ganga Nagar—Hindumalkote Bathinda Line) and two meter-gauge (the Rewari—Bathinda—Fazilka Line and the Bathinda—Bikaner Line) sections of railway lines serve the District. The stations located on the Firozpur Cantonment—Ludhiana Branch Line are Saidawala, Dhindsa (halt), Ferozeshah, Sulhani and Talwandi Bhai. The Firozpur Cantonment—Jalandhar City Branch Line runs along the north-east of the Firozpur and Zira tahsils. The stations located on this line are Mahalam, Talli Saida Sahu, Mallanwala Khas, Butewala, Makhu and Jogewala. The Firozpur Cantonment—Fazilka Branch Line runs in the south-western direction, serving the Firozpur and Fazilka tahsils. The stations falling on this line in the District are the Firozpur City, Khai Phemeke, Dodh, Jhok Thahal Singh, Kohar Singhwala, Guru Har Sahai, Jiwa Arain, Jalalabad, Bahamhiwala, Ladhuka, Theh Qalandar and Fazilka. The Firozpur Cantonment—Bathinda-Delhi Main Line has only a small trip in this District. The only station located on it, and falling in the Firozpur District, is Kasu Begu. The Shri Ganga Nagar—Hindumalkote—Bathinda Branch Line also crosses the southern regions of the Fazilka Tahsil. The stations located on this line are Bahawal Basi, Abohar, Kilanwali Punjab, Panjkosi and Bakian. All the above five lines are broad-gauge lines. The Rewari Bathinda—Fazilka Meter gauge Branch Line joins Fazilka to Bathinda through Muktsar and Kot Kapura. The stations on this line, falling in the District are : Roranwala, Chak Pakhewala and Chak Banwala.

Appendices IV and V (pages 210 to 212) show the monthly average railway passenger and goods traffic and earnings in the District during 1979-80.

Rail-Road Competition.—To begin with, road traffic was not much affected by the introduction of railways, in India, as at that time mechanical haulage did not exist, and roads acted as feeders to railways. But the position changed altogether after the World War I(1914-18), when mechanical road haulage became popular throughout the country. A large number of motor-buses began to ply on the roads and actively competed

with railways for the short-distance passenger traffic. The motor-buses could afford to carry goods at a cheap rate, because they had to pay nothing for the construction or maintenance of the highways. Their cost is also less per kilometre than that of the railways. It is said to be 'door-to-door' service and is best suited to certain types of commodities, such as eggs, fish, vegetables and dairy products, which must be speedily despatched to the nearby markets in good condition to fetch good prices. Therefore with the development of motor transport after 1920, the railways began to lose financially owing to this unhealthy competition.

The question of the rail-road competition was examined by two committees in 1932 and 1937. The second committee recommended that the railways should be protected against unfair competition from motor-vehicles by controlling, supervising and licensing motor-vehicles. Accordingly, the Motor-Vehicles Act was passed in 1939 to control motor traffic. Nevertheless, the road transport continued to compete with the railway transport.



After 1947, the problem of rail-road competition no longer existed in the country because of heavy taxation on road vehicles and as the result of the nationalization of motor transport. Moreover, the railways generally had a great volume of traffic—both passenger and goods than what they could efficiently handle. Another Act was, however, passed in 1950 to regulate the rail-road transport.

(d) Waterways, Ferries and Bridges

Waterways.—There are no waterways or navigable canals in the District. The inland water transport, i.e. canals and rivers had received a set-back owing to the rail and road transport. In the past, these means were utilized for transporting timber etc., but have now gone out of use, except in the hills.

Ferries.—Ferry crossings are maintained, wherever necessary.

Bridges.—For the smooth running of road traffic, bridges exist on the roads, wherever necessary.

(e) Air Transport

There is no air service in the District.

(f) Travel and Tourist Facilities

There are a number of *dharmshalas*, *serais* and hotels in the District for travellers, tourists and visitors. Hotels are maintained in the Indian style and cater for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals.

Dak-Bungalows and Rest-Houses.—Dak-bungalows and rest-house are maintained by different departments for use by their employees during their visit to different places. Tourists are also provided with accommodation, if it is available. A list of rest-houses and dak-bungalows in the District is given in Appendix VI on pages 214.

(g) Post, Telegraph and Telephone

In the eighties of the nineteenth century, the mail from Ludhiana to Firozpur was sent on horseback, and there was also a Government bullock-train. Thereafter, the mail began to sent by using motor-vans and railways.

The post offices in the District are under the Superintendent of Post Offices, Firozpur Division, Firozpur. At the important centres in the towns, letter-boxes have been fixed for the convenience of the public and the dak is cleared at fixed hours, two or three times a day. In all the 1,220 villages of the District, dak is delivered daily. There is not a single no-dak village in it.

On 31 March 1980, there was 1 head post office, 40 sub-post offices, 241 branch post offices and 10 extra-departmental sub-offices in the District. A list of post offices is given in Appendix VII on pages 216 to 220.

The Railway Mail-Service Office, situated at the Firozpur Cantonment Railway Station, serves as an intermediary for the exchange of mails with post offices and the various running sections of the railways.

Telegraphs.—The Telegraph Office at Firozpur was converted from a combined office into a Departmental Telegraph Office on 16 November 1947. At that time, New Delhi and other major towns were connected to this office on the Morse System. This system was changed to a high-speed one i.e. teleprinter working during 1965—71. At present, the office is working on the teleprinter with New Delhi, Chandigarh, Ambala, Jalandhar, Bathinda, Amritsar and Ludhiana. Besides, the Fazilka Combined Office and the Abohar Combined Office in these two big towns of the District are working on the teleprinter. The other Combined offices in the District working on the Morse System are : Guru Har Sahai, Jalalabad, Mallanwala, Ferozeshah, Makhu, Talwandi Bhai and Zira. Mamdot, Khai Pheme Ke and Ghall Khurd are connected on the phonocum system. There are also combined post and telegraph offices in the Firozpur City, Firozpur Cantonment and other places in the District. Telegrams are accepted round the clock from the public and are also telephoned to the subscribers.

Telephone.—There are 18 telephone exchanges in the District located at Abohar, Arniwala, Dharangwala, Dharmkot, Fatehgarh Panjtoor, Fazilka, Firozpur, Guru Har Sahai, Jalalabad, Kot Isa Khan, Ladhuka, Makhu, Mallanwala Khas, Mamdot, Manjgarh, Talwandi Bhai, Waryam Khera and Zira. Besides, there are 4 trunk exchanges located at Abohar, Fazilka, Firozpur and Zira and 22 long distance public-calls offices located at Amarkot Kandwala, Churiwala Dhanna, Jhumianwali, Khuhi Khera, Killianwali, Nihal Khera, Panjkosi, Patrewala, Ram Asra, Alamgarh, Syyedwala, Dangar Khera, Mauzam, Singhpura, Ferozeshah, Ghall Khurd, Khai Pheme ke, Jhok Hari Har, Bhinder Kalan, Karyl, Fatehgarh Kortana and Jalalabad East.

(h) Organisations of Owners and Employees in the Field of Transport and Communications

No organisation of owners in the field of transport and communications exists in the District. The transport workers/employees working in various transport companies have, however, formed their unions to look after their service interest. New Samundri Transport Workers' Union, Firozpur, is the only union functioning in the District.



APPENDIX I

(Vide Page 194)

**Number of different types of motor-vehicles registered in the Firozpur
District 1974--79**

Year	Cars	Jeeps	Trucks	Taxis	Tractors	Buses	*Motor cycles	Auto-rickshaws	Miscellaneous
1974	57	23	28	1	367	50	388	8	11
1975	43	25	19	..	929	49	502	43	11
1976	81	145	136	..	2,814	20	664	13	5
1977	106	165	128	2	3,062	21	946	3	6
1978	60	73	34	..	4,685	41	903	5	8
1979	32	59	73	..	3,746	16	897	9	..

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1975 to 1980)

*Including Scooters



APPENDIX II

(Vide page 195).

**Bus routes operated by the Firozpur Depot of the Punjab Roadways,
Firozpur, as on 31 March 1980**

Serial No.	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length (Km)	Total daily services (Km)
1	Firozpur-Delhi via Hisar	1	451	902
2	Amritsar-Hisar	1	392	784
3	Firozpur-Delhi via Ludhiana	1	449	898
4	Firozpur-Hisar via Fazilka	1	329	658
5	Firozpur-Jammu	1	322	644
6	Amritsar-Sirsa	1	298	596
7	Amritsar-Gurdaspur	1	72	144
8	Firozpur-Sirsa	1	178	356
9	Firozpur-Sirsa via Fazilka	1	248	496
10	Amritsar-Ganganagar	2	288	1,152
11	Jalandhar-Ganganagar	1	296	592
12	Firozpur-Ganganagar	3	168	1,008
13	Firozpur-Ganganagar via Muktsar	1	164	328
14	Amritsar-Budha Johar	1	376	752
15	Guru Har Sahai-Chandigarh	1	273	546
16	Firozpur-Chandigarh	1	231	462
17	Firozpur-Chandigarh via Dharmkot	1	237	474
18	Firozpur-Chandigarh via Dharmkot-Jagraon	1	248	496
19	Firozpur-Chandigarh via Zira-Moga	1	240	480
20	Abohar-Pathankot	1	259	518
21	Firozpur-Nangal	1	286	572
22	Firozpur-Patiala via Ludhiana	1	228	456
23	Firozpur-Patiala via Sangrur	1	230	460
24	Firozpur-Pong Dam	1	235	470
25	Firozpur-Hoshiarpur	2	168	672
26	Firozpur Jalandhar via Dharmkot	2	129	516
27	Firozpur-Jalandhar via Kapurthala	2	138	552

Serial No.	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length (Km.)	Total daily services (Km.)
28	Firozpur-Phagwara	..	2	135
29	Firozpur-Ludhiana via Kishanpura	..	1	137
30	Firozpur-Amritsar via Mallanwala	..	3	112
31	Firozpur-Amritsar via Talwandi Bhai	..	4	128
32	Firozpur-Amritsar via Patti	..	1	141
33	Firozpur-Dabwali via Muktsar	..	1	120
34	Firozpur-Abohar via Fazilka	..	1	124
35	Firozpur-Abohar via Muktsar	..	3	112
36	Firozpur-Muktsar via Faridkot	..	3	80
37	Firozpur-Muktsar via Sadiq	..	6	56
38	Firozpur-Nihal Singhwala	..	2	94
39	Firozpur-Talwandi Mallian	..	2	90
40	Firozpur Fazilka	..	9	89
41	Firozpur-Malaut via Fazilka	..	1	145
42	Zira-Naserwala	..	1	41
43	Firozpur-Naserwala	..	1	81
44	Zira-Rorwan	..	1	39
45	Firozpur-Rorwan	..	1	79
46	Firozpur-Khadoor Sahib	..	2	109
47	Firozpur-Moga	..	5	63
48	Firozpur-Guru Har Sahai	..	6	40
49	Firozpur-Patchgarh Panjtoor	..	1	57
50	Firozpur-Wahka	..	5	13
51	Firozpur-Toot	..	3	17
52	Firozpur Faridawala	..	3	25
53	Firozpur-Talwandi Bhai via Khosa Dal Singh	2	43	172
54	Firozpur-Hussaniwala	..	8	13
55	Firozpur-Khassi Kotla	..	2	63
56	Firozpur-Karmwala	..	4	26

Serial No.	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length (Km)	Total daily Service ^s (Km)
57	Firozpur-Bhungali	4	36	288
58	Firozpur-Mudki	4	443	344
59	Firozpur-Sakur	4	26	208
60	Firozpur-Mamdot	8½	26	442
61	Firozpur-Amritsar via Zira	1	120	240
62	Firozpur-Ludhiana	1	131	262
63	Firozpur-Lamdot	4	35	280
64	Zira-Talwandi Bhai	7	16	224
65	Zira-Makhu	5	16	160
66	Zira-Sanaur	2	4	16
67	Zira-Hardasā	2	16	64
68	Zira-Mallanwala	5	22	220
69	Firozpur-Sadhwala	2	20	80
70	Firozpur-Sham Singhwala	5	27	270
71	Firozpur City Service Fazilka Sub-Depot	5	635	
72	Malaut-Sangheria	5	60	600
73	Fazilka-Sirsā	1	146	292
74	Abohar-Hanumangarh	5½	69	759
75	Fazilka-Abohar	1	35	70
76	Abohar-Chandigarh	1	352	704
77	Fazilka-Chandigarh	2½	320	1600
78	Fazilka-Firozpur	2½	89	445
79	Fazilka-Sangheria	2	100	400
80	Fazilka-Sangheria	1	97	194
81	Abohar-Sangheria	2	56	224
82	Fazilka-Abohar via Arniwala	4	66	528
83	Abohar-Dabwali via Sitaguno	1	56	112

Serial No.	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length (km)	Total daily services (km)
84	Fazilka-Jalalabad	5	32	320
85	Fazilka-Panjoke	1	48	96
86	Fazilka-Dabwali	3	99	594
87	Dabwali-Giddarbahe	1	32	64
88	Fazilka-Faridkot	3	110	660
89	Fazilka-Malaut	13	56	1456
90	Malaut-Dabwali	5	32	320
91	Malaut-Abohar via Katiawali	2	44	176
92	Fazilka-Malaut via Abohar	11 trip per month	67	52
93	Fazilka-Chak Pakhi	3	20	120
94	Fazilka-Roranwali	2	31	120
95	Jalalabad-Chak Pakhi	5	20	200
96	Fazilka-Jandwala	2	28	112
97	Fazilka-Pakka	2	13	52
98	Fazilka-Abohar via Kathra	2	41	164
99	Fazilka-Abohar via Chachrana	2	44	176
100	Abohar-Rarkhar	2	22	88
101	Abohar-Sargarh	3	25	150
102	Abohar-Sarvar Khuan	1	16	32
103	Abohar-Gumjal	2	31	124
104	Abohar-Divankhera	1	19	38
105	Abohar-Mojgarh	2	25	100
106	Abohar-Dalbirkhera	2	21	84
107	Abohar-Bathinda	1	105	210

(Source : General Manager, Punjab Roadways, Firozpur)

APPENDIX III

(Vide page 195)

Bus routes operated by private transport companies in the Firozpur District as on 30 April 1980

Serial No.	Name of the transport company	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length in km	Total daily services (km)
COMMUNICATIONS					
1	The New Samundri Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Firozpur	Firozpur—Muktsar via Sadiq	..	10	56
		Firozpur—Dabwali via Malaut—Muktsar	..	1	142
		Muktsar—Bathinda via Doda	..	10	56
		Firozpur—Muktsar via Kotkapura	..	13	80
		Firozpur—Mamdot	..	51	286
		Muktsar—Dabwali	..	1	64
		Muktsar—Kotkapura	..	5	32
		Malaut—Fazilka	..	2	48
		Muktsar—Lubanewali up to Budhimar	..	3	27
		Muktsar—Bhundar	..	2	21
		Muktsar—Dabwali—Midul thera	..	1	75
		Muktsar—Sammowali—Fazilka	..	2	56
		Muktsar—Bathinda	..	1	64
		Firozpur—Malianwala	..	2	24
2	Samundri Roadways (P) Ltd. Firozpur				205

FIROZPUR

Serial No.	Name of the transport company	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length in km	Total daily services (km)
3	The Firozpur Border Transport Co. (Regd), Firozpur	Makhlu—Mallanwala Firozpur—Sadiq—Muktsar—Dabwali—Faridkot Dabwali—Faridkot	2 2 1	16 56 112	64 224 224
4	Anil Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Fazilka	Muktsar—Abohar via Panniwala Muktsar—Bathinda Muktsar—Malaut via Panniwala Fazilka—Abohar via Shabirwala Fazilka—Abohar via Bandiwalla Fazilka—Mandi Roranwali	2 1 2 5 4	52 52 48 52 50	208 208 192 520 400
5	Fazilka—Dabwali Transport Co. (P) Ltd., Abohar	Abohar—Fazilka Abohar—Malaut Malaut—Dabwali Fazilka—Sirsa via Abohar Malaut Abohar—Gumjal Fazilka—Chutala Fazilka—Dabwali—Abohar—Malaut Abohar—Ganganager	18 1 6 1 1 1 1 1	35 33 30 35 198 33 396 316	1,260 198 60 1,260 44 256 200 528

Abohar—Harmandarh	..	2 ¹	66	330
Abohar—Dabwali via Sitoguno	..	3	53	318
Abohar—Ludhiana	..	1	215	430
Abohar—Muktsar—Firozpur	..	1	112	224
Abohar—Muktsar via Panniwala	..	1	56	112
Muktsar—Sadiq—Firozpur	..	1	56	112
Abohar—Fazilka via Arniwala	..	2	48	192
Firozpur—Amritsar via Talwandi Bhai	..	1	128	256
Firozpur—Amritsar via Mallanwala	..	1	107	214
Abohar—Khuri Khera	..	1	18	36
Malaaut—Abohar—Fazilka	..	2	68	272
Abohar—Katchra	..	3	21	126
Malaaut—Abohar	..	2	33	132
Abohar—Malaaut via Kattianwali	..	1	42	84
Abohar—Dabwali via Sito	..	2	58	232
Abohar—Sangria	..	1	58	116
Malaaut—Bhitriwala	..	1 ¹	40	120
Muktsar—Fazilka via Samnewali	..	1	56	112
Muktsar—Saranaga	..	2	16	64
Abohar—Muktsar via Panniwala	..	2 ¹	56	280
Muktsar—Malaaut via Tamkot	..	1 ¹	42	126

6 The New Firozpur—Fazilka Transport Co.(P) Ltd.,
Abohar



7 The Shararathi Coop. Transport Co. (P) Ltd.,
Abohar

FIROZPUR

Serial No.	Name of the transport company	Name of the route	Number of daily trips	Route length in Km.	Total daily service (km)
8	The Workers Transport Co. (Regd), Abohar	Bathinda—Abohar via Malaut Muktsar—Panniwala—Malaut Panniwala—Abohar Muktsar—Malout via Tankot Abohar—Diwan Khera Abohar—Ganganagar	.. .. .. .. .. ..	1 2 1 1 2 11	98 48 27 42 24 44
9	The Jai Transport Coop. Society, Ltd., Abohar	Abohar—Muktsar via Panniwala Muktsar—Khuanan	.. ..	1 2	56 16
10	Janta Transport Coop. Transport Society, Ltd. Abohar	Abohar—Ganganagar Abohar—Dabwali via Sitaguno Abohar—Sito—Doda—Kullar Abohar—Ganganagar	.. .. .. ..	8 3 3 2	44 44 56 44
11	Abohar—Purasharthi Coop. Transport Society, Abohar	Malaut—Bazidpur Abohar—Sito—Doda—Kullar Abohar—Ganganagar	.. .. ..	1 1 1	45 38 38
12	Abohar—Bahawalpur Coop. Transport Society Ltd., Abohar	Abohar—Bahawala Shergarh Abohar—Shergarh via Dharampura	.. ..	1 1	48 32

				..
		Abohar—Shergarh via Dharampura Khuikhera	..	..
		Abohar—Sadhuwala via Bahawala	..	1 48 96
		Abohar—Dabwai via Sito	..	1 56 112
13	Abohar Bharat Coop. Transport and Goods Society Ltd., Abohar			
14	Ramsara Coop. Transport Society Ltd., Abohar	Abohar—Dalbir Khera	..	1 27 54
15	Sandhu Bus Service Regd., Abohar	Abohar—Dewankhera	..	2 48 192

(Source : Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Firozpur)



APPENDIX IV

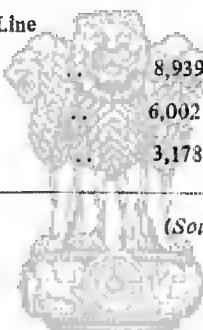
(Vide page 196)

Railway passengers and goods traffic in the Firozpur District, 1979-80

Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Nos.)	Inward (Nos.)	Passengers (Rs)	Parcels (Rs)
I. Firozpur Cantonment—Ludhiana Branch Line				
1 Saidanwala	..	2,522	2,048	1,998
2 Dhindsa (Halt)	..	276	243	203
3 Farozeshah	..	5,283	4,470	4,995
4 Sulhani	..	3,562	2,616	2,866
5 Talwandi Bhai	..	13,775	10,852	20,648
II. Firozpur Cantonment—Jalandhar City Branch Line				
1 Mahalam	..	4,821	5,095	5,380
2 Talli Saida Sahu	..	4,774	1,354	4,892
3 Mallanwala Khas	..	10,249	3,038	11,971
4 Butewala	..	4,143	651	3,976
5 Makhu	..	19,232	14,073	22,326
6 Jogewala	..	6,007	1,269	5,949
III. Firozpur Cantonment—Fazilka Branch Line				
1 Firozpur Cantonment	..	1,00,408	61,340	7,87,200
2 Firozpur City	..	27,307	27,453	37,453
3 Khai Phemeke	..	5,314	3,409	4,652
4 Dodh	..	6,776	4,899	5,154
5 Jhok Thahal Singh	..	12,687	8,993	10,077
6 Kohar Singhwala	..	6,758	6,367	9,062
7 Guru Har Sahai	..	31,360	26,217	35,885
8 Jiwa Arain	..	9,483	7,699	7,573
9 Jalalabad	..	28,185	26,462	36,043
10 Bahamniwala	..	5,273	1,458	4,502
11 Ladhuka	..	489	440	412
12 Theh Qalandar	..	267	262	225
13 Fazilka	..	25,140	10,287	38,846

Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Nos)	Inward (Nos)	Pas- senger (Rs)	Parcels (Rs)
IV. Pirozpur Cantonment—Bathinda—Delhi Main Line				
1 Kasu Begu	..	855	714	1,333
V. Shri Ganga Nagar—Hindumalketa—Bathinda Branch Line				
1 Bahawal Basi	..	4,807	2,315	3,648
2 Abohar	..	47,855	38,403	2,42,950
3 Kilanwali Punjab	..	4,389	1,997	3,921
4 Panjkosi	..	4,905	1,000	3,000
5 Bakian	..	3,531	2,632	3,993
VI. Rewari Bathinda—Fazilka Line				
1 Chak Roranwala	..	8,939	6,088	10,876
2 Chak Pakhewala	..	6,002	5,765	5,595
3 Chak Banwala	..	3,178	..	2,523

(Source: Station-masters)



नवरात्रि दीपोत्सव

APPENDIX V

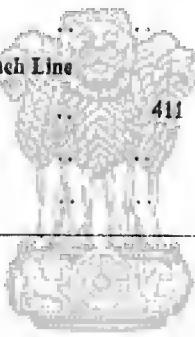
(Vide page 196)

Railway goods traffic in the Firozpur District, 1979-80

Station	Monthly average traffic		Monthly average earnings	
	Outward (Quintal)	Inward (Quintal)	Outward (Rs)	Inward (Rs)
I. Firozpur Cantonment—Ludhiana Branch Line				
1 Saidanwala
2 Dhindsa (halt)
3 Ferozshah	51
4 Sulhani
5 Talwandi Bhai	29,26,905	9,428	2,75,786	95,288
II. Firozpur Cantonment—Jalandhar City Branch Line				
1 Mahalam
2 Talli Saida Sahu
3 Mallanwala Khas	61	509	524	4,677
4 Butewala
5 Makhu	1,18,605	666	17,59,994	38,196
6 Jogawala
III. Firozpur Cantonment—Fazilka Branch Line				
1 Firozpur Cantonment	..	67,308	28,308	33,871
2 Firozpur City	..	61,732	34,871	2,78,033
3 Khai Phemeke
4 Dodh
5 Jhok Thahal Singh
6 Kohar Singh wala
7 Guru Har Sahai	..	38,205	5,027	4,01,387
8 Jiwa Arain
9 Jalalabad	..	30,591	5,286	2,69,937
10 Bahamniwala
11 Ladhuka
12 Theh Qalandar
13 Fazilka	..	1,749	4,461	23,671
				18,484

Station	Monthly Average traffic		Monthly Average earnings		Parcels (Rs)	
	Outward (Nos)	Inward (Nos)	Percentage (Rs)			
IV Firozpur Cantonment						
IV Firozpur Cantonment—Bathinda-Delhi Main Line						
1 Kasu Begu	
V Shri Ganga Nagar—Hindumulkote—Bathinda Branch Line						
1 Bahawal Basi	
2 Abohar	..	94,851	44,934	10,38,695	30,43,94	
3 Kilanwali Punjab	
4 Panjkosi	..	480	50	3,000	200	
5 Bakian	
VI Rewari-Bathinda-Fazilka Branch Line						
1 Chak Rotanwala	..	411	1	4,813	20	
2 Chak Pakhewala	
3 Chak Banwala	

(Source: Station-masters)



APPENDIX VI

(Vide page 198)

Rest-houses in Firozpur District as on 31 March 1980

Serial No.	Place	No. of seats	Name of the reserving authority
Tahsil Firozpur			
1	Panchayat Bhawan, Firozpur City	8	Secretary, Zila Parishad, Firozpur
2	Canal Rest-House, Firozpur Cantonment	6	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur.
3	Railway Officer's Rest-House, Firozpur Cantonment	1	Divisional Superintendent, Northern Railway, Firozpur
4	Sainik Rest-House, Firozpur Cantonment	6	Secretary, District Sainik Board, Firozpur
5	Electricity Board Rest-House, Firozpur Cantonment		Superintending Engineer, Punjab State Electricity Board, Firozpur
6	Canal Rest-House, Gujjar	2	Executive Engineer, Northern
7	Canal Rest-House, Lakhoke	1	Executive Engineer, Northern
8	Canal Rest-House, Mohanke Uttar	3	Executive Engineer, Northern
9	Canal Rest-House, Kohr Singhwala	1	Executive Engineer, Northern
10	Canal Rest-House, Amir Khan	3	Executive Engineer, Northern Division, Firozpur
11	Canal Raest-House, Gurdittiwala	2	Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Firozpur
12	Canal Rest-House, Ferozeshah	1	Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Firozpur
Tahsil Zira			
13	Canal Rest-House, Zira	2	Executive Eugineer, Sidhwan Division, Ludhiana
14	Panchayat Samiti, Rest-House, Zira	3	Sub-Divisional Officer, Panchayati Raj, Firozpur
15	Canal Rest-House, Fatehgarh Panjtar	2	Executive Engineer, Sidhwan Division, Ludhiana
16	Canal Rest-House, Jogewala	2	Executive Engineer, Sidhwan Division, Ludhiana
17	Canal Rest-House, Makhu	2	Executive Engineer, Sidhwan Division, Ludhiana
18	Panchayat Samiti, Rest-House, Dharmkot	2	Sub-Divisional Officer, Panchayati Raj, Firozpur
19	Canal Rest-House, Mallanwala	3	Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Firozpur

Serial No.	Place	No. of suits	Name of the reserving authority
Tahsil Fazilka			
20	Public Works Department Rest-House, Fazilka	2	Executive Engineer, Construction Division, Firozpur
21	Canal Rest-House, Fazilka	3	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
22	Market Committee, Rest-House Fazilka	..	Secretary, Market Committee, Fazilka
23	Canal Rest-House, Saidoke	2	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
24	Canal Rest-House, Ghubhaya	1	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
25	Shelter Hut, Jandike	2	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
26	Rest-House, Islamwala	2	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
27	Canal Rest-House, Chak Pakhwala	2	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
28	Canal Rest-House, Kabul Shah	2	Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
29	Panchayat Samiti Rest-House, Chak Pakhwala	1	Sub-Divisional Officer, Panchayati Raj, Firozpur
30	Railway Officer's Rest-House, Abohar	1	Divisional Superintendent, Northern Railway, Firozpur
31	Market Committee Rest-House, Abohar	6	Secretary, Market Committee, Abohar

APPENDIX VII

(Vide page 198)

Post Offices in the Firozpur District, as on 31 March 1980

Head Post Office	Branch Post Offices
1. Firozpur	.. 1 Basti Tankanwali 2 Bazidpur 3 Billewala 4 Dhira Patra 5 Faridewala 6 Janerian 7 Jholi Harihar 8 Lal Kurti Bazar 9 Mumara 10 Nurpur Sethian 11 Rukna Begu 12 Patel Nagar 13 Sadiq 14 Saidanwala 15 Sainwala 16 Sande Hashan 17 Sherkhanwala 18 Tut
Sub-Post Offices	
1 Abohar (L.S.G.) P.C.O., C.O.	.. 1 Alamgarh 2 Azamgarh 3 Balluana 4 Bahawal Bassi 5 Bhangalan 6 Burj Mohar 7 Chandankhera 8 Dodewala 9 Govindgarh 10 Jodhpur 11 Khurur Khera 12 Kera Khera 13 Kundal 14 Kikar Khera 15 Malakpur 16 Pakki Tibbi Police Station 17 Patti Sadiqpur 18 Patel Nagar Abohar 19 Ramgarh 20 Rukanpura(Khuikhera) 21 Seed Farm, Abohar 22 Sherewala 23 Waryam Khera
2 Abohar Mandi T.S.O., N.D.	
3 Arniwala Shhkei Subhan	.. 1 Aslam Wala 2 Dabwale Kalan 3 Dhippanwali 4 Jattan Bhattianwala 5 Jandwala Bhimeshah 6 Jhomianwali 7 Kandwala Nazar Khan 8 Mahuana Bodla 9 Mulanwala 10 Taliwala Bodla 11 Taliwala Jattan

Head Post Office	Branch Post Offices
4 Bazar Krishan Sudama, Firozpur City ..	
5 Canal Colony, Firozpur ..	
6 Chowk Arya Samaj, Firozpur City ..	
7 D.A.V. College, Abohar ..	
8 District Board Office, Firozpur City ..	
9 Fazilka L.S.G.	
	  ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ
	1 Behal 2 Chak Banwala 3 Chimnewala 4 Jandwala Kharta 5 Karni Khera 6 Kiryanwala 7 Ladhuwa 8 Ladhuwa Mandi 9 Rana 10 Sabuana
10 Firozpur Aliwal Lines	
11 Firozpur Cantonment Railway Station	
12 Firozpur City L.S.G.	
	1 Ariske 2 Chak Hiraj 3 Chak Mahantawala 4 Deep Singhwala 5 Dod Railway Station 6 Gudder Dhandi 7 Jhok Tehl Singh 8 Khai 9 Khushal Singhwala 10 Kohar Singhwala 11 Lakhoke Behram 12 Masteke 13 Mahallam 14 Sohangarh
13 Firozpur Sadar Bazar	
14 Gandhi Nagar, Fazilka ..	
15 Gowal Mandi, Firozpur Cantonment ..	
16 Guru Har Sahai	
	1 Gurdwara Jand Sahib 2 Kanjyanwali 3 Pindi 4 Siwali 5 Sharinwala

Post Offices

Branch Post Offices

17 Haripura

- .. 1 Bakian
- 2 Danewala
- 3 Dharmpura
- 4 Diwan Khera
- 5 Koil Khera
- 6 Khuyan Sarwar
- 7 Saidwala
- 8 Sappanwali
- 9 Usman Khera

18 Jalalabad L.S.G.

- .. 1 Amir Khas
- 2 Baggeke Uttar
- 3 Bahamniwala
- 4 Chak Gulam Rasulwala
- 5 Chak Saido Ke
- 6 Dhandi Khurd
- 7 Ghubaya
- 8 Jiwa Arain
- 9 Lamochar Kalan
- 10 Mahmud Joya
- 11 Pacca Kale Wala
- 12 Panjeke Uttar

19 Jalalabad Town

20 Khui Khera

- 1 Azamwala
- 2 Kamalwala
- 3 Kathera
- 4 KheowaliDhab
- 5 Khippanwali
- 6 Mamun Khera
- 7 Shatirwala
- 8 Shajrana

21 Krishna Nagri, Abohar

ਕ੍ਰਿਸ਼ਨ ਨਗਰੀ

22 Mallanwala

- .. 1 Mulluwala
- 2 Sudh Singhwala

23 Mandi Amin Ganj

- .. 1 Akalgarh
- 2 Bhagsar
- 3 Chak Budhoke
- 4 Chak Janisar (Chhimbewala)
- 5 Chak Kherewala
- 6 Khurani
- 7 Ladhuwala Uttar
- 8 Lakhewali
- 9 Madrassa
- 10 Nandgarh
- 11 Nokerian
- 12 Pakan
- 13 Batta Khera
- 14 Sohelewala
- 15 Sammewali

24 Mamdot

- .. 1 Karma
- 2 Khundar Uttar
- 3 Tibbi Khurd

Post Offices	Branch Post Offices
25 Maujgarh	1 Bhanger Khera 2 Dalmir Khera 3 Dhinganwali 4 Gidderanwali 5 Gunjal 6 Jandwala Hanumanta 7 Kallar Khera 8 Panjawa Mandal 9 Panniwala Mohl 10 Shergarh 11 Tootwala
26 Nihal Khera	1 Bazidpur Katianwala 2 Dhangar Khera 3 Ghallu 4 Jandwala Mirasangla 5 Koharianwala 6 Muradwala Dal Singh Rohrian Wali 8 Roop Nagar
27 Nai Abadi Abohar	
28 Ram Sara	1 Bhagoo 2 Dotaranwali 3 Rajanwali 4 Raipur 5 Sardarpura 6 Wahabiawali
29 Sabzi Mandi, Firozpur City	
30 Sahitya Sadan, Abohar	
31 Wool Market, Fazilka	
32 Bhinder	
33 Dharamkot L.S.G.	1 Data 1 Aminwala 2 Badowal 3 Dholewala 4 Karyal 5 Kaila 6 Kanwan 7 Kot Sadar Khan 8 Nurpur Hakiman 9 Pandori Araian
34 Ferozeshah	1 Bhanger 2 Bharana 3 Dhindsa 4 Ittanwai 5 Karmuwali 6 Khosa Dal Singh

Post Offices

Sub-Branch Post Offices

-
- 7 Lohgarh
 - 8 Machi Bugra
 - 9 Piareana
 - 10 Batta Khera Punjabsinghwala
 - 11 Sodhinagar
 - 12 Wara Bahi
 - 13 Shahzadi
 - 14 Shakur
 - 15 Thethar Kalan

35 Kishanpura

- 1 Indergarh
- 2 Jalalabad (East)
- 3 Lohgarh
- 4 Nasirewala

36 Kot Isa Khan

- 
- 1 Datewala
 - 2 Ghaloti
 - 3 Janer
 - 4 Mahal
 - 5 Mandar Kalan
 - 6 Masitaon
 - 7 Qabarwala
 - 8 Shah-Abu-Bakar

37 Makhu

- 1 Baihak Gujran
- 2 Canal Colony, Makhu
- 3 Fatehgarh Sabra
- 4 Pir Mohammad
- 5 Shihanpari
- 6 Sarhali

38 Shahid Gurdas Ram Road, Zira

39 Talwandi Bhai

- 1 Chand Baja
 - 2 Chotia Kalan
 - 3 Darapur
 - 4 Dhanna Shahid
 - 5 Dhurkot
 - 6 Gill
 - 7 Baraj
 - 8 Jhandiana
 - 9 Kaber Bachha
 - 10 Kassoana
 - 11 Khukrana
 - 12 Kot Karor Kalan
 - 13 Lalle
 - 14 Mahlan Kalan
 - 15 Mohar
 - 16 Moranwali
 - 17 Sekhaw
 - 18 Sodhiwala
 - 19 Sulhani
 - 20 Thammanwala
 - 21 Tumber Nan
 - 22 Wara Wariamsinghwala
-

1

2

40 Zira

- 1 Awan
- 2 Balkhandi
- 3 Bettianwali
- 4 Jhanda Bagha Purana
- 5 Jhatre
- 6 Laungo Dowa
- 7 Mahlonwala Kalan
- 8 Malloke
- 9 Manawan
- 10 Mansur Dowa
- 11 Mehr Singhwala
- 12 Sankar
- 13 Santuwala
- 14 Shahzada Sant Singh
- 15 Shahwala
- 16 Sukhewala
- 17 Talwandi Jallokhan
- 18 Thatha Kishan Singh
- 19 Wakilanwala
- 20 Valtoha
- 21 Pheroke

1	Churiwala Shana Extra Departmental Sub-Office
2	Dharangwala Extra Departmental Sub-Office
3	Jhumianwali Extra Departmental Sub-Office
4	Kandwala Amarkot Extra Departmental Sub-Office
5	Killianwala Extra Departmental Sub-Offices
6	Mauzam Extra Departmental Sub-Office
7	Panjkosi Extra Departmental Sub-Office
8	Patrewala Extra Departmental Sub-Office
9	Fatehgarh Panjter Extra Departmental Sub-Office
10	Ghal Khurd Extra Departmental Sub-Office
	Total Head Post Offices .. 1
	Total Sub-Post Offices .. 40
	Total Extra Departmental Sub-Offices .. 10
	Total Branch Post Offices .. 241

(Source: Superintendent of Post Offices, Firozpur Division, Firozpur)

CHAPTER VIII

Miscellaneous Occupations

Firozpur is a predominantly rural district, with approximately 80 per cent of its total population living in villages and about 20 per cent in towns. The main profession of the people, inhabiting the rural areas, is agriculture and manual labour. The urban population depends upon non-agricultural activities, such as household industry, manufacturing industry, transport, trade, commerce, etc. Persons absorbed in services constitute about 4 per cent of the total population of the District.

A glance at the modern urban or rural life reveals that there are certain means of livelihood which come neither directly under the purview of industry nor under that of agriculture, but most of which are in the form of services and sales, essential to the maintenance of a certain standard of living. These occupations are the results of the economic development in a particular region and their position fluctuates with the changes in the standard of living of the populace. Most of the miscellaneous occupations are interlocking, or interdependent on one another and often one creates a place for another. These occupations use the available local labour and, thus, provide the people with employment and means of livelihood and cater for the daily needs of the people, and provide them with all sorts of goods and services. The existence or essentiality of such occupations is felt more in the urban areas than in the rural areas. Moreover, the changes in the social structure, such as the breaking up of the joint-family system, a sense of decent living and economic stability, free movement of labour, changes in habits or likings, consciousness of standard of living, etc., have provided a good chance for the structure of miscellaneous occupations to create a position of importance in the socio-economic field.

According to 1971 Census, the total population of the District was 10,44,936 (5,57,286 males and 4,87,650 females), of which 8,13,386 persons were living in rural areas, and 2,31,550 in urban areas. The total number of workers was 3,08,343 (2,44,865 rural and 63,478 urban), of which 2,25,893 were cultivators and agricultural labourers, and the remaining 82,450 as other workers. Of the total working force of the District, 27,694 were engaged in 'other services', which included services like the generating and supplying of electricity and water, besides sanitary, medical and public health, legal, business, recreational and personal services. They also included general labourers, engaged in miscellaneous occupations.

The new national set-up in the country after Independence and the rapidly developing economy have opened up vast avenues of employment, and, consequently, there has been an appreciable increase in employment

in different occupations. Besides, the economic development achieved through the successive Five-Year Plans has provided scope for these occupations to grow and form their own groups. Though their activities are mainly confined to the urban areas, they are now making an appearance in the countryside also. Persons in services and earning through miscellaneous occupations form a very small proportion of the total population of the District. They include Government or semi-government servants and persons employed in education, law, medical, engineering, personal, domestic services, etc.

(a) Public Administration

Central, State and Local Government Services.—Since the close of the eighteenth century, the Firozpur City has been the seat of administration. With the expansion of different departments and the creation of new ones, the number of Government employees has shown a considerable rise, especially after Independence. Besides, increase in population, decentralization of administration, expansion of educational and irrigation facilities, opening of public-health and construction divisions and the advent of Panchayati Raj have resulted in a manifold increase in the number of Government employees. As on 31 March 1979, there were 17,522 Government employees in the District as compared with 14,171 on 31 March 1974.

In spite of the low scales of pay, Government jobs have always had a special fascination for the people, because these jobs assure them fixed income. In addition to their basic pay, the Government employees are paid regular dearness allowance and house-rent allowance, the quantum of which varies according to the scale of pay. Loans are advanced by the Government for constructing houses, purchasing vehicles, etc. The employees are also provided with residential quarters. There is also a provision for compulsory contribution to the provident fund for Government employees so that their dependants may be provided for in case of their premature death. On superannuation, the Government employees are entitled to the benefits of compassionate gratuity, pension, etc. The railway authorities provide quarters for their employees on nominal rent and issue free and privilege passes for travelling to the employees and their families. They are also provided with uniforms. Class IV employees, under the State Government and the Central Government, are also given free liveries.

Public Employees' Organizations.—A number of organizations have been formed by the public employees to safeguard their service interests and for recreational and cultural purposes. A list of these organizations is given below :

- 1 The M.E.S. Civilian Workers' & Employees' Union, Firozpur Cantonment.

- 2 The Northern Railway Welding & Trading Contractors' Association, Firozpur.
- 3 The Station-master's Group Association, Firozpur.
- 4 The Firozpur Agro Industries Association, Firozpur.
- 5 The Punjab Government Labour Union, P W D, B & R, Firozpur City.
- 6 The Firozpur Central Co-operative Bank Employees' Union, Firozpur City.
- 7 The Fazilka Central Co-operative Bank Employees' Union, Fazilka.
- 8 The Municipal Employees' Union, Firozpur.
- 9 The Municipal Staff Union, Abohar.
- 10 The Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh, Firozpur.
- 11 The Safai Karamchari Union Nagarpalika, Firozpur City.
- 12 The Harijan Workers' Union Cantonment Board, Firozpur City.
- 13 The Municipal Mazdoor Sabha, Abohar.
- 14 The Safai Sewak Union Municipal Committee, Abohar.
- 15 The Municipal Fire Brigade Employees' Union, Firozpur.

As a result of the efforts of these organizations, the condition of the employees of different categories has considerably improved.

(b) Learned Professions

Educational Services.—The teaching profession plays no small part in the life of the District. The Sikh Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, Firozpur, was the first girls' school to be started in the District in 1883. The Arya Samaj Orphanage, Firozpur, was founded in 1878 with separate schools and hostels, boys and girls.

The total number of teachers working in the recognized schools of different categories in the District, as on 30 September 1979, was 6,395. This number does not include the clerks and the non-teaching staff employed in these institutions. The persons engaged in the teaching profession

are much respected by the people. They are also well paid now. For some time past, the number of women employees in the teaching profession is on the increase.

Medical and Health Services.—The total number of persons engaged in the profession of medical and health services in the District rose from 2,043 in 1977 to 2,326 in 1979. This number included doctors, nurses, midwives and *dais*. There is also a large number of private medical practitioners in the District. Homoeopathy is practised by some in the towns. The Ayurvedic and Unani systems are, however, liked more by the people because of the simpler and familiar medicines prescribed. The State Government is also giving better recognition to these systems. The doctors and physicians employed in Government hospitals get a fixed salary. But the income received by the private doctors and physicians invariably depends on their reputation for efficiency. Generally, no consultation fee is charged by private doctors and physicians, but the cost of the medicines supplied covers the consultation fee also.

There was a time when the people in the rural areas could not get medical aid at the time of illness. But, with the spread of education and scientific treatment of human ills and with the increased provision of health and other medical facilities, the number of patients treated in the District has risen considerably. In order to cope with the growing demand of the people, the number of hospitals and dispensaries is rising every year. In 1974, there were 54 hospitals and dispensaries in the District, equipped with 806 beds, run by the State Government, local bodies and charitable trusts and endowments. As compared with the above figures, there were 119 hospitals and dispensaries in the District, equipped with 1,376 beds, on 1 April, 1980. The above comparison clearly illustrates that now more people are engaged in medical profession.

On the veterinary side, there is a network of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in the District to improve cattle breeds and treat various diseases of animals.

Legal Services.—The profession includes barristers, advocates, pleaders, and *munshis*. Lawyers have, in fact, to work as a link between the litigant public and the Government officials. The number of persons engaged in this profession is increasing day by day consequent upon the general rise in the literacy and educational standards of the area. There are three bar associations in the District, one at the District headquarters at Firozpur, two at the tahsil headquarters at Zira and Fazilka. These associations are rendering useful service and are responsible for maintaining the right professional conduct, towards the public.

Engineering Services.—The engineers have contributed a good deal to the constructive plans at the District headquarters as well as at the sub-divisional level. It is due to them that development works, such as the opening of canals, the construction of roads and the extension of electricity installations to the remote corners of the area, are being completed. The details of the personnel employed in engineering services of the Government departments, have been given in the chapter 'Other Departments'. Also, a number of persons are carrying on their profession as contractors and architects or as consulting engineers.

(c) Personal and Domestic Services

Personal Services.—Barbers, washermen, launderers, tailors, water-carriers, weavers, cobblers, carpenters and the like constitute this group. These services employ a considerable number of persons as described in the following account:

Barbers.—Some religious practices have given a secured position to the barbers. On the occasions of marriage, the thread-wearing ceremony, funeral rites, etc., they are required to be present. In the rural areas, they get remuneration for their services in kind at the time of harvesting, while in the towns they get it in cash.

The old practice of barbers going from place to place in search of customers has almost vanished. Instead, barbershops are coming up even in the interior parts of the District. In the rural areas, the practice of visiting houses of their clients by the barbers is still in vogue. The wife of the barber, called *nain*, also does some sort of periodical hair-cleaning of the womenfolk of the families to which the barber is attached.

In the urban areas, hairdressing saloons or beauty shops are becoming popular. These are equipped with modern tools and instruments for hairdressing and hair-cutting. The practice of visiting the houses of their customers by the barbers has become out of fashion. The customers too, feel it easier, convenient and cheaper to visit the saloon for a shave or hair-cut. Generally, the barbers charge Rs 2 to Rs 3 for a hair-cut and 50 paise to Re 1 for a shave.

It is to be noted that most of the workers in this profession are not indigenous to the District, but hail from other States, especially Rajasthan and Haryana.

The barbers in the towns have formed organisations for their economic and social welfare. Tuesdays are, generally, observed as holidays by them.

Washermen.—Laundering is now becoming popular and a paying profession. Most of the good laundries are, however, located in the urban areas. In the rural areas, the washermen move from door to door to collect clothes and to return those already washed. The laundry business has adversely affected the washermen, since launderers are more prompt and efficient than washermen. Generally, the laundries employ washermen for washing and pressing the clothes at the shops. There are a number of dry-cleaning concerns in the cities and towns. They have set up modern dry-cleaning plants. Their charges vary from Rs 7 to 9 for dry-cleaning a woollen or a terylene suit. The average rates for washing and pressing cotton clothes are 40—50 paise and 20—25 paise per piece respectively.

Tailors.—Big tailoring establishments are found confined to the urban areas. In recent years, this paying profession has attracted more and more educated persons. Tailors in the urban areas make pants, trousers, coats, skirts, bush shirts jackets, nightgowns, *achkens*, lady coats, *salwars*, blouses and cotton and woollen suits (for men and women) of various designs and cuts, whereas in the rural areas, they, generally, stitch *kurtas*, *pyjamas*, shirts, *kachhas*, *salwars*, *ghagras*, *chaddars*, etc. Most of the tailors have their own machines and work independently. The rates charged by them in the urban and rural areas vary much.

The old practice of the tailors' (*darzis*) going to different houses for sewing clothes does not now exist, except on the occasions, of marriages, etc. Some people call the *darzis* to their houses for the preparation of costly clothes and garments under their own supervision. Nowadays, the tailors are paid in cash even in the rural areas. Some tailors also work on commission basis with big concerns.

Self-employment.—Self-employed persons include weavers, shoemakers, potters, sweepers, handcart-pedlars, railway station or bus-station porters and vendors, hosiery weavers, etc. Most of the persons associated with such professions are local and are spread throughout the District. Only a few of them are the residents of the adjoining districts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. In the rural areas, some of them work as *siris* (share-croppers) to landowners. *Julahas* (weavers) earn their livelihood by preparing yarn, *kheses*, sheets (*chaddars*), etc. But the economic condition of the people of this category has not improved so far.

Sweepers in the rural areas are paid annually in the form of wheat and other crops, whereas in the cities they charge Rs 2 to 5 per month from each family in addition to a *chapati* daily and other gifts on auspicious

occasions. They also work as tenants and *siris* in villages with the landlords. In the urban areas, they usually get employment in hospitals, dispensaries, etc. Their lot has not improved much.

Domestic Services:—Cooks, indoor servants, water-carriers, bus-drivers, cleaners and chauffeurs, etc. constitute this group. Improvement in the economic condition of the people during the last few years, especially in urban areas, has brought about an increase in the number of domestic servants. The people living in villages are used to do work with their own hands, but some landlords employ ploughmen and labourers who also attend to other domestic chores of their employers. The persons of mediocre means find it difficult to afford domestic servants in these days. Most of the domestic servants are local or from the nearby villages and a few have come from the Kangra District (Himachal Pradesh) and the Hoshiarpur District of the Punjab.

The remuneration paid to domestic servants in the shape of wages, food and clothing differs from place to place. On an average, a domestic servant gets Rs 100 a month plus meals and clothes. Some well-to-do families also employ female domestic servants to do household jobs or for looking after their children. They are provided with food, clothing, lodging etc. in addition to the pay which varies from Rs 80 to Rs 100 per month.

(d) Miscellaneous Services

Transport Servicer:—Road transport plays a vital role in moulding the social and economic structure of a country. With the expansion of roads after Independence, the District has developed into a nerve-centre of transport. The development of transport has opened up avenues for employment, whereas improved communications have led to the amelioration of the condition of the people.

Also, the use of private cars, jeeps, auto-cycles, bicycles, bullock-carts, tongas, rickshaws, and public and private carriers has also been on the increase. Rickshaws ply in the urban and semi-urban areas and provide a cheaper means of conveyance. Some persons invest money on the purchase of these vehicles and hire them out to rickshaw pullers. A few *tongas* are also seen plying on the roads. Besides, now auto-rickshaws, which are much faster, are also catering for the transport requirements of the people in the District.

Private cars and jeeps also cater for the needs of their owners in their day-to-day avocations. The number of such vehicles has gradually been on the increase. Some of the owners of these vehicles keep drivers.

A number of transport workers, such as drivers, conductors and cleaners, are employed in the transport companies. They are provided with various facilities, viz. free uniforms, bonus, allowance for overtime work, etc. Their income and social status is better than that of the rickshaw-pullers and tonga-drivers. They have formed organisations to look after their interests.



CHAPTER IX

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The economic progress of a region depends on several factors, important among which are its natural resources, opportunities for their exploitation, availability of finance, its political structure and social set-up obtaining at a particular time. Economic trends serve as a yardstick by which the economic progress of a region can be measured. The most important constituents of economic trends are economic stability and progress, which also indicate the state of economy of the region. These constituents serve as an index of economic growth. The progressive and dynamic trends bring about fundamental and significant changes in the whole structure of the economy of the region. In short, economic trends are of help in ascertaining the overall economic progress and growth of a region.

(a) Livelihood Pattern and General level of Prices and Wages and Standard of Living

Livelihood Pattern.—The livelihood pursuits of the people of any region, the nature and variety of the occupations followed, and also the economic development of the area are closely related to the stages of economic development and the extent to which the available resources are exploited for the industrial and agronomic advancement of that region.

Firozpur is one of the richest districts in the State, and agriculture has always been the primary source of the livelihood of its people. As elsewhere, the economic life in the villages in the District, before the World War I (1914—18), was not much different from the life under the barter system. The villages were like small republics, isolated and self-sufficient, maintaining the even tenor of their life in a world moving at a terrific pace. The war shook up the general framework of social and economic relations among the various groups inhabiting the villages. The position of the menials, the money-lender, the shopkeeper and the artisan in the village society no longer remained the same as before the war. The depression of 1929-33 and the World War II (1939-44) further affected the livelihood pattern of the villages. The Independence and the partition of the country in 1947 threw the whole social and economic structure out of gear. Immediate steps were, therefore, taken to rehabilitate the refugees from the West Punjab and restore the economic equilibrium of the Indian Punjab. Step by step, further progress was made under the Five-Year Plans.

As already mentioned, before the World War I, agriculture formed the mainstay of the people in the District. There were no industries worth

the name. After the war, there came into existence cotton-ginning and pressing factories, which favourably changed the economic life of the people. With the passage of time, people began to respond further to industry. On the partition of the country in 1947, Firozpur became a border district, far away from the markets. In view of the ever strained relations with the neighbouring Pakistan, very few moneyed people are coming forward to invest money in this area. Industry has not, therefore, developed much in it.

The District abounds in cotton, rice, wheat and oil-seeds and most of the industries are agro-based, i.e. cotton-ginning and pressing, cotton-weaving, flour-mills and rice-husking and oil-crushing. In 1971, only 7,363 persons were found to be engaged in household industries. The main occupation of the people is farming. The District is important for the cultivation of cotton, particularly the long-staple varieties. During the last few years, the output of the crop has increased much owing to the extension of irrigation facilities.

The urban population of the District is mainly engaged in industry, construction, manufacturing articles other than household ones, transport, trade, commerce and other vocations. The livelihood pattern has undergone a radical change after the partition of the country in 1947.

In the study of economic growth, manpower plays a vital role. For economic purposes, the 1971 Census divided the general population of the District into two categories, viz. workers and non-workers. Out of the total population of 10,44,936, 3,08,043 were returned as workers and 7,36,893 as non-workers on the basis of economic activity pursued, the workers were further classified into nine industrial categories, as shown in the following statement :

Classification of Workers in the Firozpur District according to the 1971 Census

Classification of workers according to their professions	Number of persons according to the 1971 Census						Total Persons	
	Rural			Urban				
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females		
1 Cultivators	..	1,52,935	595	4,785	33	1,57,320	628	1,57,948
2 Agricultural labour	..	63,128	1,229	3,559	29	66,687	1,258	67,945
3 Livestock-keeping, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations orchards and allied activities	..	1,722	30	335	3	2,057	33	2,090
4 Mining and quarrying	..	52	..	1	..	53	..	53
5 Manufacturing, processing, servicing and repairs—	..	5,279	329	1,669	86	6,948	415	7,363
(a) Household industry	..	1,476	93	8,837	159	10,313	252	10,565
(b) Manufacturing other than household industry	..	1,564	11	1,691	38	3,255	49	3,304
6 Construction	..	5,895	18	15,563	95	21,458	113	21,571
7 Trade and commerce	..	1,527	3	5,591	66	7,118	69	7,187
8 Transport, storage and communication	..	8,525	534	18,769	2,189	27,294	2,723	30,017
9 Other services	..	2,41,703	2,842	60,800	2,698	3,02,503	5,540	3,08,043
Total Workers	..	1,91,812	3,77,029	62,951	1,05,101	2,54,763	4,82,130	7,36,893
10 Non-workers	..	4,33,515	3,79,871	1,23,751	1,07,799	5,57,266	4,87,670	10,44,936
Total Population

(Census of 1971, Series 17.—Punjab, Part X A & B, Firozpur District Census Handbook, pp. 122-129 and Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1979)

According to the foregoing statement, out of the total population of 10,44,936 in the Firozpur District, 3,08,043 were engaged in some kind of economic activity. The number of non-workers was 7,36,893. The ratio of workers to non-workers worked out at 29.5 and 70.5 as against the corresponding ratio of 28.9 and 71.1 for the Punjab State.

The standard of living of a community is also judged from the way its members are housed. The provision of cheap and decent housing accommodation is the primary need of a family in civilized life. It means the provision of comfortable shelter and such surroundings as would keep the worker healthy, fit and cheerful. It also includes proper arrangements for water-supply, drainage, lighting and means of communications in every village and town of the District. In urban areas of the District, the dwellings are almost entirely pucca and are provided with modern amenities, such as a kitchen, a bathroom and latrine. Houses in the new townships are also provided with all such amenities. But, in the rural areas, the people are not provided with all these facilities. Most of the dwellings are *kacha*, whereas a few are partly pucca and are provided with a *baithak* (sitting-room) for guests etc. More and more pucca houses are also coming up with the passage of time. The houses, have, generally, a big *deohri* (entrance room), *vehra* (compound), *dalan* (a large rectangular room), etc. There are separate *havelis* (buildings) for keeping cattle and fodder, though in some cases, these are also kept in the residential place. In some villages, people bring water from wells situated outside their dwellings. But now, under the Integrated Rural Development Programme, 5 villages in each block are selected as model villages and are provided with all types of amenities, including sanitation etc.

In 1977-78, the income per head in the Firozpur District was Rs 2,163 which was 4th in the descending order as compared with that in other districts in the State. It is an indicator of the standards of living of the people residing in the District. The table that follows shows the district-wise and with respect to the Punjab as a whole the income per head for the year 1977-78 at the then prevailing prices:

District	Per capita income
Ludhiana	.. 2,198
Amritsar	.. 1,891
Rupnagar	.. 1,763

District		Per capita income
Bathinda	..	2,029
Sangrur	..	2,042
Kapurthala	..	2,192
Firozpur	..	2,163
Patiala	..	2,271
Jalandhar	..	1,855
Gurdaspur	..	1,470
Hoshiarpur	..	1,583
Faridkot	..	2,152
Punjab State	..	1,962

(Source : Economic Adviser to Government, Punjab, Chandigarh)

The Independence of the country brought about a radical change in the life of the people, both in the rural and urban areas. The entire economic structure has been revolutionized. There is a noticeable change in the food, dress and manners of the villagers. Even in the remote villages, one would come across clean-shaven young men, with their hair properly groomed. The use of the cosmetics and silken clothes among married women is also on the increase. There is a keen desire for education among the village folk and literacy is rapidly increasing. There is hardly any village without a radio-set. Lately, transisters have become more popular. The reading of newspapers and discussion on political issues among the villagers is on the increase. With the development of roads, the cycle has replaced the horse and the pony as a means of conveyance. The joint-family system, too, has undergone a marked change as a result of the economic strain. There is a general tendency among the landless labourers and educated members of a joint family to shift to towns in order to find better employment or business opportunities.

Prices and Wages.—The level of prices has a bearing, both on the real income and the standard of living of the people because it is not the money income but the purchases through it that matter.

Prices

Prices play an important role in the economic system of a region and reflect the changes occurring therein. The rising prices have an obvious impact on the cost of living. A rise in prices, with income being constant, lowers the purchasing power of money and affects the consumers directly. A study of the general level of prices and their trends is, therefore, useful in understanding the economic condition of the people. A brief history of the movement during the past century or so is as under :

The period, from 1861-66, was one of rising prices. During 1866-83, prices began to fall, except for a sudden jump in the prices of foodstuffs between 1876 and 1879 due to a great famine.

From 1883, the fall in prices was arrested, and after 1885, the country entered an era of rising prices. The slow rise in prices of the last decennium gathered pace in 1893, and continued up to 1913. Prices rose to unprecedented heights during the war years (1914-19). The failure of rains in 1918-19 and 1919-20 accentuated the rise in prices, which reached their highest level in 1920. The phenomenal rise in prices during the war was a period of hardship for agricultural masses, working labour force and fixed-income groups.

Having reached their maximum limits in 1920, the prices began to fall from 1921 onwards. This downward trend was accelerated during the great depression of 1929-33. The prices of primary goods fell more than those of manufactured goods and the agricultural countries such as India, were more adversely affected thereby than the industrial countries. One serious aspect of the fall in prices was the disparity in the price level of the raw materials and the manufactured goods. The depression had serious effects on the internal trade, foreign trade, and the balance of trade. Agriculture received the severest blow. The peasant's income fell, but the land revenue, rent of land, irrigation charges, interest rates, etc. remained the same.

The period 1933-39 was that of partial recovery, as there was a limited improvement in the economic structure of the country. After 1934, prices started improving, except 1937-38 when there was a recession and set-back. It was only at the outbreak of the World War II in 1939 that the prices finally started recovering. During the first three years of the war, the Government did not move in the matter. The price situation reached serious proportions by 1943 when the Government realized the gravity of the situation and adopted price control and other necessary measures to combat it. These measures achieved a limited success. The further rise of prices was, of course, checked, though they could not be brought down.

When the war ended in 1945, people looked forward to a fall in prices and even the post-war depression was feared. But contrary to their expectations, the prices went on rising till they touched giddy heights in the first half of 1951 after which they declined early on 1952. The remedial measures adopted by the Government and some favourable international factors brought the prices down. For two years, the price level remained more or less stable. But again from June 1955, the prices started rising and remained high except in 1957-58, when they declined. The price situation continued to cause anxiety during 1958—61. During the emergency period of the Chinese aggression in 1962, prices went up like anything. Despite all the remedial measures adopted by the Government from time to time, the prices maintained the upward trend during the sixties.

The upward trend in the prices, which started with the outbreak of the World War II has continued all through thereafter. After Independence in 1947, the problems arising from the partition of the country, irregular rainfall and consequent shortfalls in the production of foodgrains, boom conditions created by the Korean War (1950 onwards), increased outlay and taxation consequent upon the development activities initiated by the Government during the successive Five-Year Plans, increase in money-supply, increase in population, speculative hoarding of stocks to boost prices, and the general rise in the level of world prices led to a spiral of sparing prices in the country, State and the District from 1947 onwards.

The retail prices of foodgrains prevalent at Firozpur, from 1862 to 1932 are shown in the following table :

Retail Prices of Foodgrains at Firozpur on 1st January each year in seers and chhataks, per rupee

Year		Wheat SC	Gram SC	Maize SC	Jowar SC	Bajra SC
1862 to 1866	Average	..	31.9	40.2	40.11	42.8
1872 to 1876	Do	..	23.0	31.8	31.0	31.12
1882 to 1886	Do	..	22.2	33.11	34.3	34.3
1892 to 1896	Do	..	16.10	25.13	24.6	23.13
1902 to 1906	Do	..	15.6	23.3	24.10	23.0
1912 to 1916	Do	..	10.10	13.14	15.12	12.8
1922		..	3.12	4.12	6.0	5.12
1924		..	10.12	14.8	15.8	13.4
1926		..	5.12	8.0	7.12	6.12
1930		..	8.2	7.4	10.8	..
1932		..	15.0	16.0	19.0	26.0

(Firozpur District Gazetteer, pt. B, 1935, Statistical Tables, p. cxix)

The retail prices of a foodgrains in the Firozpur District during 1978 to 1980 are shown in the following table :

Retail Prices of Foodgrains in the Firozpur District per kg. during 1978 to 1980

Year		Wheat (Rs)	Gram (Rs)	Moong (Rs)	Mash (Rs)	Massar (Rs)
1978	..	1.36	..	4.07	3.89	4.15
1979	..	1.44	2.49	4.62	4.31	4.22
1980	..	1.43	3.26	4.88	3.89	4.59

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1978 to 1980)

The prices of foodgrains in the Firozpur District during 1975-76 to 1979-80 are also shown in the following table :

Prices of Foodgrains in the Firozpur District per quintal during 1975-76 to 1979-80

Year		Wheat (Rs)	Gram (Rs)	Maize (Rs)	Jowar (Rs)	Bajra (Rs)
1975-76	..	110	116	90	97	90
1976-77	..	112	155	90	110	98
1977-78	..	118	180	114	117	111
1978-79	..	121	190	129	115	98
1979-80	..	123	210	130	134	120

(Source : District Statistical Officer, Firozpur)

Wages

Wages usually signify all remunerations capable of being expressed in terms of money, paid to a person as payment for the labour done. These have an intimate connection with the general economic conditions of the people, the level of prices of essential commodities, and the standard of living. In the early days, wages, especially in the agricultural sector, were determined by custom and tradition. The agricultural labourers and artisans were generally paid either in cash or in kind or in both. But, with the passage of time, the payment of wages in cash has become more and more prevalent, especially in the case of labourers.

A study of the general level of wages throws much light on the economic condition of the people. The wage level over a period has undergone similar fluctuations as the price level. There has been a sharp rise in wages since the World War II. The wage rates of labour, from 1905-06 to 1927, are given in Appendix I on page 248. The rates of pay fixed for class IV Government Servants working in the District during 1979-80 are given in Appendix II on page 249.

Standard of Living.—The standard of living can be explained as the way of living of the masses in a particular area, taking into consideration the income and consumption patterns. Besides income and expenditure of a family, the standard of living depends on two factors, viz. the size and composition of the family and the tastes and preferences of its members. The income of an ordinary family and the amenities of life within the reach of its members depend on the productive resources available in the region and employment offered by these resources. The external factors, such as climate and environment, also affect the standard of living of the people. A knowledge of the prevalent standard of living of the various strata of society is, therefore, useful in understanding the general economic and social well-being of the people and planning for their progress and prosperity.

The Economic and Statistical Organization, Punjab, conducted a survey regarding the family budgets of thirty-five cultivators in the State during 1978-79¹. The aim of the survey was to find out the returns accruing to the farmers for their work on the holdings. Two families of villages, viz., Ladhuwala Hithar (Tahsil Fazilka), and Sherpur Takhtuwala (Tahsil Zira) in the Firozpur District were included in the survey. The findings of the survey pertaining to the income and expenditure are given in the following table :

Name of the family/village	Net income from all sources (Rs)	Net expendi- ture (Rs)	Surplus/ deficit (Rs)
Ladhuwala Hithar	.. 32,633.26	8,503.75	+24,129.51
Sherpur Takhtuwala	.. 47,106.88	13,175.28	+33,931.60

The above figures show that these families in the Firozpur District had a surplus budget. The survey also showed that, on an average, a peasant proprietor's family in the Punjab spent 56 per cent of its income on food, 11 per cent on clothing, 18 per cent on housing, 15 per cent on fuel, lighting, medicine, travelling, education, religious and social functions, amusements,

¹Family Budget of Thirty-Five Cultivators in in the Punjab for the year 1978-79 (Publication No. 335, issued by the Economic Advisor to Government, Punjab, Chandigarh, in 1980)

etc. The finding of the survey also revealed that, on an average, a peasant proprietor incurred 49 per cent of his total domestic expenditure on the commodities purchased from outside.

The goods consumed by the families in the two villages were as under :

Name of the family/ village	Total expendi- ture on food	Supplied by the farm	Percentage from outside	Purchases	Percentage
	(Rs)	(Rs)		(Rs)	
Ladhuwala Hithar	.. 5,111.30	4,010.00	73	1,500.10	27
Sherpur	.. 7,383.03	5,784.13	78	1,598.90	22

(b) Employment Situation

The total magnitude of employment in a country as a whole is a consequence of the development policies followed by it. The employment situation in the Firozpur District, too, is becoming more and more favourable as years roll by, though the growth in employment is not keeping pace with the labour turnover. The trends in employment are influenced by changes in the economic structure, seasonal effect, mobility of labour and the rate of development. After Independence, the rate of employment growth has been maximum in the tertiary sector, trade, and commerce, transport, storage, communications and services.

The inhabitants of the District are primarily engaged in agriculture which, however, provides employment for about six months in the year. On 31 March 1980, there were 57,976 labourers employed in the District as compared with 53,558 in the previous year. The employment increased by 8.2 per cent and the index rose from 103.2 in 1979 to 111.9 at the end of 1980. In the public sector, employment increased by 8.5 per cent in 1979-80, but it decreased in the private sector. An important feature of the District is that the employment of women also increased by 14.5 per cent during 1979-80. In 1979-80, the employment of women constituted about 11.5 per cent of the total employment. The growth of employment in the District is constant owing to its proximity to the border, as very few entrepreneurs take the initiative to invest more money. The only redeeming feature is the growing incidence of self-employment in agriculture which has become a profitable business these days. The number of persons waiting for employment in the District at the close of 1974 was 14,700, which number rose to 23,677 in 1980. Moreover, there is a surplus of teachers of drawing and social studies, conductors, labourers, *chowkidars*, drivers, sweepers, illiterate persons without technical training, etc. On the other hand, there is an

acute shortage of good pharmacists, compounders, teachers (science and mathematics) etc. The labour force of the District is not mobile enough because of the lack of education in the rural areas, thus resulting in increasing un-employment.

Employment Exchange.—The District Employment Exchange, Firozpur was established on 1 October 1959, primarily to provide employment assistance for the people and also to help them in the resettlement and rehabilitation of the ex-servicemen released from the Army. Its main functions are : to register applicants and to provide employment assistance, to impart vocational guidance to the youth (boys and girls) and adults to enable them to choose a better career, and to collect information with respect to the employment market to assess the employment trends, the impact of Government plans on the employment situations and to collect employment statistics for the Planning Commission of India.

The number of persons waiting for employment on the live register of the District Employment Exchange, Firozpur, increased from 9,487 in 1974 to 15,095 in 1980. The number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchange decreased from 3,923 in 1974 to 2,246 in 1980. The number of vacancies filled during 1974 and 1980 were 2,973 and 1,203, respectively. The employment increased to some extent in cotton-ginning and cotton-weaving factories owing to the seasonal effect and increase in power supply.

As a result of the increase in the volume of work, a Town Employment Exchange was also opened at Abohar to serve the people of the area. The number of persons waiting for employment on the live register of the Town Employment Exchange, Abohar, increased from 5,213 in 1974 to 8,582 in 1980. The number of vacancies notified to the Employment Exchange increased from 123 in 1974 to 551 in 1980. The number of vacancies filled up during 1974 and 1980 were 47 and 431 respectively.

The work done by the District Employment Exchange, Firozpur and the Town Employment Exchange, Abohar is shown in Appendices III and IV on pages 253 and 254 respectively.

Employment Market Information Scheme.—Because of the realization that the problem of unemployment must be tackled at the district level, the Employment Market Information Scheme was introduced into the District under the Second Five-Year Plan. This scheme estimates the employment position of the entire revenue District of Firozpur so

as to make data available to the Government and the Planning Commission for the contraction and expansion of employment in various industries and occupations. The information, thus collected, is also utilized to assist the Government in determining the location of certain training institutions and the trades to be taught therein. It enables the Government to assess the impact of developmental plans on employment. It is also intended to provide comprehensive information to the persons seeking work and the employers seeking workers.

Under this Scheme, the data are collected from all the establishments in the public sector and from those establishments in the private sector, which are engaged in non-agricultural activities employing 10 or more workers. In the case of construction activity, the coverage is restricted to only those engaged in contract of work on public account. The information is, however, limited to only whole-time employees. Part-time employees or independent workers are not covered.

This Scheme is also intended to provide the employers, the persons seeking employment and the State and Central Governments with comprehensive employment information. The Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959, came into force from 1 May 1960, for the benefit of the public and private agencies. The employment generated by the public sector has increased faster than that generated by the private sector, and, therefore, the relative share of the public sector in generating total employment showed an increase. The Scheme also aims at improving employment conditions and co-ordination among the existing agencies.

Introduced into the State in 1957-58, the Scheme is operated under the guidance of the Director of Employment, Punjab, Chandigarh. Initially, it covered only the public sector, but, from 1960-61, it was also extended to the private sector. The following statement clearly shows the changes in the volume of employment, both in private and public sectors in the Firozpur District, as in December 1978 and December, 1979 :

Industrial Division	Number of establishments		Number of employees	
	December 1978	December 1979	December 1978	December 1979
Manufacturing	..	45	57	4,221
Trade and commerce	..	8	8	117
Transport, storage and communications	13	13	24,094	25,696
Services	..	391	440	23,845
Total	..	457	518	52,277
				51,143

(Source : District Employment Officer, Firozpur)

The above statement shows that, with the exception of manufacturing and trade and commerce, the employment increased in transport, storage and communications, and services divisions.

Vocational Guidance Scheme.—The Scheme aims at giving vocational guidance and employment counselling to school-leavers and fresh entrants to the labour market and to help them to choose vocations in accordance with their interests, aptitudes and abilities. It is conducted in close collaboration with the guidance services in schools under educational authorities. The programme is jointly operated by the Directorate of Employment Exchanges of the Directorate-General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment in the State. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, through the Director of Employment Exchanges, is responsible for the general policies and procedures, which are devised in collaboration with the State Governments through the National Working Group of the Employment Service.

The officer in charge of the Employment Exchange, Firozpur, is responsible for the efficient working and general supervision of this Scheme in the District. The functions of a Vocational Guidance Unit are to give the youth (boys and girls) and adults (men and women) vocation-guidance and employment counselling in groups and individually, to assist in the placement of the youth in institutions or in plant-training centres or in entry-jobs follow-up and to review the progress of guided youth and adults, to review the records of applicants on the live register and to give them such guidance as would lead to early and suitable placement, to assist other sections of the Exchanges to improve the quality of registrations and submissions, to assist in the collection and compilation of up-to-date information on occupations, training facilities, educational courses, employment trends and employment outlook for the youth and adults, scholarships and sources of financial assistance, the maintenance of regular information for use by the applicants and visitors seeking information, the maintenance of up-to-date library on occupation literature ; and to educate the public by undertaking publicity measures in the principles of vocational guidance with a view to encouraging community consciousness. The guidance procedure at an employment exchange, with a vocational guidance unit consists in group guidance comprising invitational talks, group discussions and invitational talk-cum-group discussions according to the needs of the groups, individual guidance, and giving information individually.

A Vocational Guidance Unit was started in the District Employment Exchange, Firozpur, on 1 October 1962. The Employment Counsellor, on invitation, visits schools and colleges to give talks on

different careers. He renders all possible help to the educational authorities in organizing career conferences, exhibitions, parents' meetings and other guidance programmes.

The following table shows the work done by the Vocation Guidance Unit, Firozpur, during 1975 to 1979 :

Year	Number of individuals provided		
	Group-guidance talks	Individual-guidance cases	Individual information
1975	..	231	219
1976	..	212	279
1977	..	207	146
1978	..	94	231
1979	..	562	363

(Source : District Employment Officer, Firozpur)

(c) Planning and Community Development

Planning.—India is a land of villages and its population is predominantly rural and illiterate. In spite of this fact, the villages remained neglected all through the past in the context of development programme of the country. During the British rule, considerable enthusiasm was engendered and many improvements were introduced into the Punjab villages during 1928. The main emphasis was on manure pits, ventilators, improved agricultural implements and the education of women. But not much progress could be made in this respect because of the lack of co-operation from the people.

The partition of 1947 shattered the economic life of the country, particularly that of the Punjab. Therefore, apart from the rehabilitation of the refugees, the Government of India decided to revive the economy of the country through the programmes of planned development.

Planning is an important means for achieving the economic and social advancement of the people by formulating definite schemes by setting up targets of progress in various sectors of the economy and by achieving them within a stipulated period. After Independence, a comprehensive programme of planned economic development has been undertaken in the country for the social and economic uplift of the people

through successive Five-Year Plans by systematic planning to ensure the maximum utilization of the country's manpower and material resources. Various welfare and developmental activities have, thus, been initiated with a view to raising the standard of living of the people by opening new avenues of gainful employment and ensuring a richer and fuller life to society. The pattern of planning in the District is the same as in the rest of the State, and, indeed, in the country, as a whole, at least with respect to the broad principles and approach.

The First Five-Year Plan (1951—56) was more or less in the nature of preparing the groundwork for various development activities. The Second (1956—61) and the Third (1961—66) Plans were quite ambitious. The Second Plan, by means of the system of "mixed economy", aimed at laying the foundation of economic progress on a wider front. It also attempted to accelerate the rate of growth and initiate a strategy for achieving long-term objectives of development. The Third Plan aimed at increasing the tempo of development to march towards "a self-sustained" economy. There followed three Annual Plans during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. The Fourth Five-Year Plan was launched from 1969-70. However, in the Fifth Five-Year Plan, stress was laid on the improvement and development of all sectors of the economy.

The economic development made during each successive Plan reflect the determined efforts of the people and the Government to improve economic condition and raise the standard of living. The implementation of the Plans has resulted in several physical achievements and also structural changes lying behind these.

Community Development.—The directive principles of the Constitution are sought to be implemented through an integrated development programme, embodied in the Five-Year Plans, which aim at raising the standard of living and ensuring better conditions of living for all sections of society. Under these Plans, All-India, State-level and District-level Plans are formulated along with their specific targets and methods of achievement. These schemes for the peoples' benefit are implemented through the District administrative machinery which has been re-organized and strengthened after Independence and has been assigned a pivotal role to play to achieve the purpose.

The Community Development Programme is a unique and fresh scientific endeavour for an integrated approach to the problems of rural development, based on public participation and working through representative institutions of the people. It endeavours to mobilize public

enthusiasm and co-operation in rebuilding the rural economy and in preparing the ground for a stronger base for industrial progress and to infuse a new life by creating a new pattern of society in the rural areas.

The Community Development Programme was initiated in the country on 2 October 1952. It was inaugurated in the District by starting the first development block at Zira on 1 April 1956. These types of development blocks known as the N.E.S. (National Extension Service), the C. D. (Community Development), and the post-Intensive Blocks were conceived. They marked the three different phases of development in the rural areas. The N. E. S. was a preparatory period when the area was to be prepared to receive a heavy development dose during the next stage of community development which was a period of intensive stage, based on the assumption that the area will be sufficiently developed and the people will be educated and made conscious enough to keep up by themselves the tempo of work already released during the C.D. stage.

During 1956-57, the Planning Commission appointed the Balwantrai Mehta Committee to examine the working of the community development programme and related matters and to recommend measures for improving the quality, tone and content of the programme. In pursuance of its recommendations, the existing distinction among the N.E.S. stage, the intensive development and the post-intensive stages was abolished from 1 April 1958 and all blocks were classified into two categories, namely, the stage-I blocks and the stage-II blocks, with revised financial patterns and period of operations. Accordingly, all the N.E.S. blocks were regularized as the stage-I blocks, and all the post-intensive blocks as the stage-II blocks. The existing C.D. blocks were to continue till their term expired, when they entered the stage-II.

A stage-I block has a 5-year period of operation, with a ceiling expenditure of 12 lakhs of rupees (4 lakhs provided as loan and 8 lakhs as grant). It is an "Intensive Development" phase in which the people's participation is promoted as the method of community development and *panchayats* are intimately connected with the formulation of plans for their respective areas. After completing stage-I, the block enters the stage-II, with a provision of 5 lakhs of rupees (1.05 lakhs furnished by way of loan and the remaining as grant) for 5 years, during which the process of community development is intensified in its fuller amplitude by a greater emphasis on community development rather than on development programmes as such. Thereafter, the block enters the post stage-II (also called stage-III).

The Community Development Programme covers the entire District of Firozpur, comprising 9 blocks, viz. Firozpur, Ghal Khurd, Guru Har Sahai (in the Firozpur Subdivision) ; Fazilka, Abohar, Jalalabad, Khyan Sarwar (in the Fazilka Subdivision) ; and Zira and Dharamkot (in the Zira Subdivision). As on 31 March 1979, 1,084 inhabited villages in the District were covered under the programme. Out of the total population of the District, numbering 10,44,936, the programme served a population of 8,13,386.

The organisation of the Community Development Scheme has been largely responsible for bringing about a change of outlook in all spheres of life in the rural areas. The farmers are now greatly enlightened about the latest methods of cultivation and improved agricultural practices. The community development has infused the spirit of self-help and self-reliance among the rural folk and has widened their outlook.

Integrated Rural Development Programme.—It was inaugurated in the Punjab State on 22 November 1977. Under the Programme, the emphasis is on economic development and on the creation of focal points which will generate vigorous economic activity in the villages, leading to the total transformation of the countryside. Initially, 585 villages—a cluster of five contiguous villages in all the 117 development blocks were scheduled for allround development. The work is to be executed in 2 phases.

The main objectives of the programmed are : to increase agricultural production by 50 per cent to provide all the villages with full and gainful employment, to set the cottage, small-scale and agro-based industries to revive the traditional rural industries and trades and to fully develop local resources in five years. To begin with, facilities provided at each focal point were a branch of a co-operative bank ; a depot for the supply of inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, seed, feeds for cattle, poultry and piggery, an agro-service centre offering custom-hiring and facilities for repairs, a marketing yard, a shop of daily consumers' needs, such as soap, cloth, pulses, sugar and vegetable oil, a diesel or petrol pump, a post office and a public-call office, a model high school (including *balwadi*) ; and a veterinary hospital.

In the second phase, the centres grew further and the facilities provided at the focal points are : agro-based industries (for the processing of agricultural produce) ; cold-storage facilities ; the extension of a shopping complex ; residential quarters for Government employees ; water-supply ; improvement in environmental sanitation ; a community

centre-cum-library, with a radio-set and a television-set, a children's park, a stadium or an open-air theatre-cinema *ghar*, and the beautification-of-villages entry points.

Like other districts of the State, the Firozpur District has been covered under the Scheme since its inception. On 31 March, 1979, there were nine focal points in the District.



APPENDIX I

Wages of Labour in the Firozpur District, 1905-06 to 1927

(Vide page 238)

Year	Wages of Labour per day												Wages of Animals per day																								
	Skilled						Unskilled						Carts per day						Camels per day						Donkeys per score per day												
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest									
1905-06 ..	1	0	0	0	12	0	0	4	0	0	3	0	0	8	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	3	12	0	3	0	0	3	0	0				
1910-11 ..	1	4	0	1	6	0	0	7	0	0	6	0	0	12	0	0	10	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	3	12	0	3	0	0	3	0	0				
1912 ..	1	3	0	0	12	0	0	7	0	0	5	0	0	16	0	0	2	9	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	5	12	0	4	12	0	2	2	0	1	8	0
1917 ..	1	5	0	0	14	0	0	10	0	0	6	0	0	14	0	0	3	0	0	1	6	0	1	2	0	5	12	0	4	12	0	2	2	0	1	8	0
1922 ..	1	13	0	1	2	0	0	11	6	0	7	6	0	4	0	0	3	4	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	5	12	0	4	12	0	2	2	0	1	8	0
1927 ..	1	11	6	1	3	0	0	11	6	0	7	6	0	16	0	0	2	9	0	1	4	0	1	0	0	5	8	0	4	8	0	2	0	0	1	6	0

(Firozpur District Gazetteer, Part B, 1935 Statistical Tables, P. cxviii)

APPENDIX II

(Vide page 238)

Rates of pay fixed for Class IV Government servants working in the Firozpur District during 1980-81

Serial No.	Name of post	Rate fixed per month	Rate fixed per day
		Rs	Rs
Wholetime employees			
1 <i>Granthi</i>	..	250·00	9·00
2 <i>Dak munshi</i> dak runner and cycle dak-runner	..	250·00	9·00
3 Tailor	..	250·00	9·00
4 <i>Dhobi Saais</i> barber	..	250·00	9·00
5 Washing charges (per 100 clothes)	..	50·00	—
6 Waterman (water-carrier)	..	270·00	9·00
7 Sweeper	..	250·00	9·00
8 Man with one bullock	..	300·00	12·00
9 Man with one camel	..	350·00	13·00
10 Man with two bullocks	..	350·00	13·00
11 Allowance of additional bullock or camel	..	140·00	6·50
12 Cook	..	240·00	8·00
13 Head cook	..	250·00	12·00
14 <i>Chowkildar</i>	..	250·00	9·00
15 Assistant cook	..	230·00	8·00
16 Head <i>mochi</i>	..	250·00	9·00
17 Assistant <i>mochi</i>	..	240·00	8·00
18 Labourer	..	250·00	9·00
19 <i>Mali</i> workman/frash/cleaner	..	250·00	9·00
20 <i>Khalasi</i>	..	250·00	10·00
21 Chainman/flagman/ <i>pankha</i> coolie	..	250·00	10·00
Part-time employees			
1 Sweeper/ <i>bhishti</i> in judicial lock-up	..	10·00	—
2 Sweeper in tahsil offices	..	150·00	8·00
3 Sweeper offices/sub-offices of all departments in the district	..	100·00	5·00

Serial No.	Name of post	Rate fixed per month (Rs)	Rate fixed per day (Rs)
4	Sweeper, where the volume of work is up to six rooms	115.00	6.00
5	Sweeper where the volume of work is more than 6 rooms	150.00	6.50
6	Sweeper for post office and the Nehru Park ..	115.00	4.00
7	Bhishtri or water-carrier and chowkidar except for the lock-up ..	100.00	5.00
8	Supply contractor ..	55.00	2.50
9.	<i>Mali</i> ..	80.00	7.50
10	Hiring charges of cart with a bullock and a man ..	420.00	16.00
11	Chairman, flagman ..	—	9.00
12	Mechanic ..	—	16.00
13.	<i>Pankha</i> coolie(minor) ..	155.00	6.00
14	Oilman cleaner ..	180.00	7.00
15	Labourer— (i) Male ..	—	12.00
	(ii) Female ..	—	12.00
	(iii) Boy ..	—	8.00
16	Skilled labourer/labourer ..	—	15.00
	(i) Male ..	—	15.00
	(ii) female on the border area ..	—	8.00
17	Mason or Carpenter— (i) Class I ..	—	28.00
	(ii) Class II ..	—	25.00
	(iii) Class III ..	—	22.00
18	Painter— (i) Class I ..	—	25.00
	(ii) Class II ..	—	22.00
	(iii) Class III ..	—	20.00
19	Tinsmith, skilled ..	—	20.00
20	Hammerman, skilled ..	—	20.00
21	Cane-weaver— (i) Class I ..	—	15.00
	(ii) Class II ..	—	12.00

Serial No.	Name of post	Rate fixed per month	Rate fixed per day
		(Rs)	(Rs)
22	Road-roller driver	..	15 ·00
23	Truck-driver	..	13 ·00
24	Mate beldar <i>khalasi</i> skilled	..	12 ·00
25	<i>Khalasi</i> ordinary	..	12 ·00
26	Hiring charges of a ceiling fan of 48" & 56"	..	22 ·00
27	Hiring charges of ceiling fan of 36"	..	20 ·00
28	Hiring charges of table fan	..	20 ·00
29	White washer	..	15 ·00
30	Man with a donkey	..	15 ·00
31	Man with two donkeys	..	20 ·00
32	Man with three donkeys	..	25 ·00
33	Man with four donkeys	..	30 ·00
34	Blacksmith Class I	..	20 ·00
35	Blacksmith Class II	..	16 ·00
36	Mate	..	12 ·00
37	Mate supervisor	..	14 ·00
38	Hammer man	..	10 ·00
39	Conductor	..	9 ·00
40	Tyreman/boster/upholder/Attendance fitter	..	10 ·00
41	Ticket verifier	..	10 ·00
42	Moulder/ <i>mistry</i> /waterman	..	10 ·00
43	Ploughman with bullock and plough	..	20 ·00
44	Sheet-metal trainee labourer	..	17 ·00
45	Sprayman	..	12 ·00
46	<i>Halwai</i>	..	30 ·00
47	Tailor	..	15 ·00
48	Pipe-fitter	..	16 ·00
49	Signalman	..	10 ·00



Serial No.	Name of post	Rate fixed per month	Rate fixed per day
		Rs	Rs
50	Welder—		
	Class I	..	15·00
	Class II	..	12·00
51	Car-driver	..	15·00
52	Tempo-driver	..	15·00
53	Shop assistant, Grade I, Rs 200 per month, fixed <i>plus</i> $\frac{1}{2}$ commission	..	— 8·00 <i>plus 2%</i> Commission
54	Shop Assistant, Grade II, Rs 175 per month, fixed <i>plus</i> $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent commission	..	— 8·00
55	<i>Mahigir</i> without jaal (net)	..	— 12·00
56	<i>Mahigir</i> with jaal (net)	..	— 15·00

For Military/N.C.C./P.H.G. camps only

		Daily wages without meal	Daily wages with meal
57	Head cook	..	15·00 12·00
58	Cook	..	10·00 8·00
59	Water-carrier	..	10·00 8·00
60	Labourer	..	10·00 8·00
61	Sweeper	..	10·00 8·00
62	<i>Mochi</i>	..	10·00 8·00
63	Barber	..	12·00 8·00
64	<i>Halwai</i>	..	20·00 16·00
65	Mason	..	20·00 16·00
66	Tailor	..	16·00 12·00
67	<i>Dhobi</i> (washing charges per 100 clothes)	..	35·00 30·00
68	Surveyor	..	10·00 8·00

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

APPENDIX III

((Vide page 240)

Work done by the District Employment Exchange, Firozpur, during 1974 to 1980

Year 1	Registration 2	Placings 3	Vacancies notified 4	Vacancies filled up 5	Vacancies outstanding 6	Applicants on live register at the close of the year 7
1974 ..	12,684	2,861	3,923	2,973	753	9,487
1975 ..	10,362	1,323	2,142	1,461	765	12,480
1976 ..	8,397	1,759	2,465	1,969	404	11,946
1977 ..	9,246	1,341	3,087	1,618	573	12,114
1978 ..	13,102	1,257	2,160	1,454	632	15,616
1979 ..	11,074	1,272	2,542	1,405	970	15,993
1980 ..	9,519	972	2,246	1,203	622	15, 95

(Source : District Employment Officer, Firozpur)

लोकसेवा नगरपालिका

APPENDIX IV

(Vide Page 240)

Work done by the Town Employment Exchange, Ahohar, during 1974 to 1980

Year 1	Registration 2	Placings 3	Vacancies notified 4	Vacancies filled up 5	Vacancies outstand- ing 6	Appli- cants on live register at the close of the year 7
1974	..	5,325	112	123	47	394
1975	..	3,694	363	492	191	298
1976	..	3,644	422	1,150	450	659
1977	..	4,873	643	1,227	1,014	199
1978	..	4,800	374	577	370	261
1979	..	4,395	490	654	336	96
1980	..	5,956	453	551	431	143
						8,582

(Source : District Employment Officer, Firozpur)



लोकसेवा नियन्त्रण

CHAPTER X

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(a) Historical Background and Divisions of the District

The district administration in India is more or less a continuation of the British system of administration, which in itself can rightly be traced to the system of administration adopted by Chandra Gupta Maurya and Akbar. The Mauryan Emperor divided the provinces of his empire into various districts. Sher Shah Suri also divided his empire into districts, called *sarkars*, and each *sarkar* into a number of *paraganas* unlike Akbar who divided his empire into provinces (*subhas*) and each province into a number of districts (*sarkars*) which were subdivided into *parganas*. Thus the district or *sarkar* has all through remained an important unit of administration. This traditional system of administration was not materially changed by the British. The lowest public servant in this field was the *patwari* or the village accountant and the highest revenue officer in the district was the deputy commissioner or collector. The same arrangement continues up to now.

However, it is only after Independence in 1947, that new ideas of public welfare have come to inspire the administration for all-round welfare of the people. The developmental activities have been extended to the village hitherto left undisturbed. New circles, called blocks, have been carved out for development purposes. The Community Development Programme¹ for intensive rural development was introduced into the District on 2 October 1952. This development work has greatly added to the workload of the district officers. It has also immensely changed the pattern of administration in the new democratic set-up, pledged to achieve the goal of a modern welfare State. In the above background, the administrative set-up of the Firozpur District is detailed in the following accounts :

Administrative Divisions.—Administratively, the District is divided into 3 tahsils, viz. Firozpur (including the sub-tahsil Guru Har Sahai), Zira, (including the sub-tahsils Dharmkot and Jalalabad) and Fazilka (including the sub-tahsil Abohar), all of which have been made subdivisions.

The strength of subdivisional officers, tahsildars and naib-tahsildars in the District is as under :

Subdivision/Tahsil	Number of Posts		
	Subdivisional Officer (civil)	Tahsildar	Naib-tahsildar
Firozpur	..	1	1
Zira	..	1	3
Fazilka	..	1	3
District Firozpur	..	3	9

¹This programme has since been changed to the Rural Development Programme

(b) District Authorities

Deputy Commissioner.—The general administration of the District is vested in the Deputy Commissioner, who continues to be the hub of the district administration. The first two officers who have held charge of the District since it became a British possession, viz. M.P. Edgeworth (5 December 1838 to 16 January 1839) and Captain H.M. Lawrence (17 January 1839 to 28 March 1841), were called Assistant Political Agent, North-West Frontier; this title was changed to the Assistant Agent to the Governor-General, North-West Frontier, whereas Mr S.C. Starkey (24 February 1846 to 20 April 1846) was an Assistant Commissioner and Superintendent, cis-Satluj States and his successor, viz. J.T. Daniell (21 April 1846 to 1 November 1847), was Deputy Commissioner and superintendent, cis-Satluj States. From that time onwards, the title of deputy commissioner has been in use. For administrative purposes, the Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur, is under the control of the Commissioner, Firozpur Division, Firozpur. Before 15 August 1973, it was under the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, Jullundur.

Even with the change in the complexion of the functions of the Government after Independence, the District continues to be the nodal point of area-administration, and the institution of the deputy commissioner has shown considerable resilience and adaptability to the constitutional, social and economic change which has since taken place. The Deputy Commissioner continues to be the key officer in the District and occupies a pivotal position in the machinery of government in the States. He has to play triple role as Deputy Commissioner, as Collector, and as District Magistrate.

(i) As Deputy Commissioner,¹ he is the executive head of the District in the sphere of civil administration, development, *panchayats*, urban local bodies, co-ordination of all governmental activities, etc.

It is through the district office that the Deputy Commissioner discharges most of his functions. At the district headquarters, he has two effective officers, viz. General Assistant, and District Development and Panchayat Officer. He also takes the help of other officers, e.g. District Treasury Officer, District Food and Supplies Controller, Election Officer, etc. But the nerve-centre of the whole administration at the district level is the district office, wherefrom most of the orders and directions flow out.

The district office is under the general control and supervision of the office superintendent. He guides the functioning of the different branches of the office, some temporary and others on permanent basis, depending upon the nature and extent of the work. Each branch is headed by an

¹S. K. Sharma, *Deputy Commissioner in Punjab* (New Delhi, 1971), pp. 58—63

Assistant who has to perform two kinds of functions—supervisory and disposal of important cases. An assistant has one or more clerks under him.

The number of branches differ from district to district, depending upon the requirements in each case but the more important branches which exist in almost all the district offices are: Licensing and Passport, Bills, and *Nazarat*, Development Branch, Miscellaneous Branch, Complaints and Enquiries Branch, Judicial Record Branch, Local Fund, Registration Branch, Copying Agency, Record and Issue Branch, Revenue Record Branch, and Revenue Accounts Branch.

Despite the new responsibilities and functions, the apparatus of district administration has remained basically the same in structure, staffing patterns, control and communications, financial control, etc. The impact of modernization has had very little effect on the administrative set-up. Transition from the law and order and collection of revenue to developmental side has, however, been remarkable.

(ii) As Collector,¹ the Deputy Commissioner is the fiscal agent of the Government in the District. His main functions are : supervision of the work of tahsildars and naib-tahsildars, supervision of consolidation work, checking of maintenance of land records, appointment of lambardars, inspections, inspections of *girdawaris*, cases under the Indian Stamp Act, cases under the Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, recoveries of government dues, compensation to landlords, collection of land revenue, income-tax arrears, etc. remissions and relief, revision of mutations, redemption of lands under the Mortgage Act, land acquisition, power to fix boundary between river and estates, registration in capacity as Registrars, excise in charge of the treasury, survey and settlement, distribution of loans, assessment, etc.

All the branches dealing with revenue matters are under the direct supervision of the Assistant Superintendent (Revenue and Records) and he supervises the Sadr Kanungo's Branch, District Revenue Accounts Branch, Vernacular Record Room, Copying Agency, and Rehabilitation Branch. Most of the work relating to land revenue administration is carried on in Sadr Kanungo's Branch. The District Revenue Accounts Branch is under the charge of an office assistant known as District Revenue Accountant (D.R.A.).

A district is further divided into several tahsils, to each of which a tahsildar and one or more naib-tahsildars are appointed. They exercise administrative and judicial functions within the limits of their own tahsils.

¹Ibid, pp. 84—120

Some bigger tahsils have a subtahsil which is under the charge of a naib-tahsildar. All the tahsils have been converted into subdivisions, each of which has been placed under the charge of Subdivisional Officer (Civil), who is a member either of the IAS or the PCS.

In the subdivision, the subdivisional officer performs the revenue functions of the former revenue assistant. Each tahsil is divided into a number of *kanungo* circles, each under the charge of a field *kanungo*, who is to supervise a number of *patwar* circles, each of which is under the charge of a Patwari.

(iii) In his capacity as District Magistrate,¹ the Deputy Commissioner is in overall charge of law and order administration. He is kept informed about all the important happenings and has to keep an eye on the activities of different groups of people, prevent clashes between different groups and control strikes and demonstrations. He has frequent discussions with the Superintendent of Police on the methods to deal with mischief-mongers and unsocial elements. All suits on behalf of the Government are technically represented by the Deputy Commissioner who symbolizes the unity of the district, as a sort of captain of the team of the district officers. He is the head of the criminal administration and functions as a shock-absorber between the police and the public. He issues licences to exhibit cinematography and also issues petroleum (dangerous and non-dangerous) licences. The district police force and the executive magistrate work under his guidance and control.

With the separation of the judiciary from the executive, the cases relating to the Indian Penal Code are now disposed of by the judicial magistrates who work directly under the High Court. The District Magistrate is the chief prosecuting officer of the district and Public Prosecutors are appointed by the Government in consultation with him and the District Judge. He advises the Government whether appeals are to be filed against acquittals, and issues arms licences and no objection certificates for explosive licences. He recommends cases for passports, issues nationality certificates, gives licences for cinemas, and arranges supervision of execution of condemned men. In his capacity as District Magistrate, he also exercises powers under the Punjab Police Act. He also grants suspensions or cancellation of arms licences, hotel licences and licenses for explosives and petroleum. He is required to inspect jails. The only colourful break in this dead routine is the marriages that he performs as Marriage Officer under the Special Marriage Act. The control of District Magistrate in police matters over the district is no doubt complete but he works under the supervision of the Commissioner.

¹Ibid, pp. 124—126

The District Magistrate is a magistrate of the 1st Class and, in the discharge of his duties, he is assisted by Subdivisional Magistrates, and other 1st, 2nd and 3rd class magistrates. The main functions of the District Magistrate are : inspection of police stations and supervision over the prevention and detection of crime ; distribution of work among various courts ; head of the prosecuting agency ; enforcement of measures for the maintenance of law and order, and the security of State under the Criminal Procedure Code, the Punjab Security of State Act, Prevention of Detention Act, etc. ; declaration and correspondence relating to mass media ; Superintendent of Police's Weekly Crime Diary, revision, pardon, discharge, etc. ; issuing of commission notices, etc. ; issuing of licences ; control over jails ; appeals, transfers ; annual confidential reports ; separation of judicial and executive functions ; miscellaneous duties, etc.

Besides his above-mentioned duties as Deputy Commissioner, Collector and District Magistrate, the Deputy Commissioner plays an important role in the community development programme, as representative of Government, and as regards other miscellaneous duties, which are discussed hereunder.¹

During the British period, the district work was nearly autocratic, involving very little consultation among equals and equally little complex staff work. It was designed to effect three purposes—land revenue, law and order and general administration which can now be termed 'traditional district administration' as primarily it was regulatory. One of the tasks that the country faced after Independence was to transform the colonial atmosphere of the administration into one which supports administration for development. There was the expansion in the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Commissioner, and the change, in the emphasis and equality from the regulatory to the developmental in an altogether different context of work, was brought about "to make him one of the most harassed and hard pressed of all government employees."² The expansion of the governmental responsibilities in the sphere of development and welfare has brought in its wake a re-definition of the Deputy Commissioner's role and responsibilities.

The Deputy Commissioner continues to enjoy the prestige of being the representative of the Government in the district. His main duty is to keep the government informed of the activities in the district, the political trends, and other information necessary for the security of the State. He is expected to know the people of the area very intimately, so that he

¹Ibid, pp. 1611-62, 202—257

²B. N. Mangat Rai, *Civil Administration in Punjab* (Cambridge, 1963), pp. 46-47

may be able to know their problems well. Being a local head of the district, the Deputy Commissioner is able to visit the local places and decide things in a dispassionate way, which saves the government from considerable embarrassment at a later stage. He is a man with many masters, "Answerable and responsible to all, expected to serve them all with equal impartiality and courtesy"¹.

His role as an agent of the government at the district level comprises the following duties ; role in planning, liaison officer and co-ordinator, ceremonial, policy making role, execution of general policies of government, Deputy Commissioner vis-a-vis elected representatives of the people, family planning, national savings, public relations and grievances, social contacts, role in agriculture, etc.

Apart from the above functions, the Deputy Commissioner performs certain duties of miscellaneous nature, which are ; undefined executive functions, acting as a guardian under the Wards Act, as Additional Settlement Commissioner, replies to questions raised in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the State Vidhan Sabha, food and supplies, census, elections, role in emergency, Defence of India Rules, etc.

Subdivisional Officers (Civil).—Before 1963, an assistant or extra assistant commissioner was posted to every district under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner to act as Revenue Assistant. He devoted the maximum of his time to the revenue business of the district. But now his functions are performed by subdivisional officers (Civil) with the help of tahsildars and naib-tahsildars.

The subdivisional officers exercise direct control over tahsildars and their staff in their respective subdivisions. The normal channel of correspondence between the deputy commissioner and the tahsildar in a subdivision is the subdivisional officer.

The subdivisional officers are vested with the powers of Deputy Commissioner in regard to co-ordination work in their respective subdivisions without affecting the later's position, authority and effectiveness, as the executive head of the district. This decentralisation of powers has been done for the quicker disposal of work and to remove the difficulties faced by the public. This step also enables the Deputy Commissioner to concentrate on more urgent and important matters. The subdivisional officer is a miniature District Magistrate (i.e. Subdivisional Magistrate) in his subdivision. He gets all sort of co-operation and help from other government officers in the subdivision for the smooth running of the

¹Ibid p. 45

administration and for the successful implementation of the developmental schemes. Though he can correspond directly with the Government, yet on important policy matters, he routes his correspondence through the Deputy Commissioner. He also performs executive duties in the subdivision with respect to development, local bodies, market committees, motor taxation, the renewal of arms licences, etc. and attends to revenue duties, executive and judicial work (original and appellate) and maintains law and order.

Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars.¹—The tahsildar enjoys a good prestige in his tahsil. He is not expected to hear any civil suits but his magisterial work is important. His efficiency, more than that of any other officer, in the district, depends on his capacity for revenue work. No degree of excellence in other respects can a tone for failure to direct and control properly the *patwari* and *kanungo* agencies to collect the revenue punctually where the people are able to pay, “to point out promptly to the collector any failure of crops or calamity of the season, which renders suspensions or remissions necessary, and to carry out, within his own sphere, the other necessary duties connected with land administration.”

There is no substantial difference between the duties of tahsildars and the naib-tahsildars, except that the former have been invested with the powers of assistant collector, class I, under the Punjab Land Revenue Act with regard to the partition cases only, whereas the naib-tahsildars are the assistant collector of class II for all purposes. They differ in criminal powers also, the tahsildars are normally magistrates class II and the naib-tahsildars magistrate class III.

Their main task being revenue collection, the tahsildars and naib-tahsildars have to tour their tahsils and sub-tahsis intensively. They play an important role in the execution of development plans, the construction of roads, drains, embankments, attending to soil conservation and reclamation, the pavement of streets, the filling of depressions and the tackling of matters connected with rural reconstruction. They also help the block development and panchayat officers in securing the maximum co-operation of the people in rural areas for development work.

The tahsildars and naib-tahsildars are assisted by a *sadr kanungo* and a *naib sadr kanungo*, who are in charge of the records at the district headquarters, and 3 office *kanungos*; one each at tahsil headquarters, 12 field *kanungos*, 2 agrarian *kanungos* at Zira and Fazilka, one special

¹S. K. Sharma, Deputy Commissioner in Punjab (New Delhi, 1971) p. 87

kanungo, thur and sem, at district headquarters, 227 patwaris and 1 patwari moharrir.

'Kanungos' and Patwaris'¹.—Each tahsil is divided into a number of *kanungo* circles, each under the charge of a field *kanungo*, who is to supervise a number of *patwar* circles, each of which is under the charge of a *patwari*.

Each *kanungo's* charge comprises about 15 to 20 *patwar* circles (about 80—90 villages), each of which is under the charge of a *patwari*. The duties of a *kanungo* are of supervisory nature. He is "a man of status", being an important and the only link between the tahsil officer and the Patwari. Each tahsildar has been provided with an office *kanungo*, whose main duty is to consolidate the information. Similarly, at the Deputy Commissioner's office, there is a *sadr kanungo* who, *inter alia*, is in charge of the patwaris' and kanungos' establishments and carries out inspections of *patwar* circles and *kanungos*, in addition to those by tahsildars. For the purpose of making the information contained in the revenue records accessible to the litigating public and to the courts, a special *kanungo* or *patwari moharrir* has been appointed in all the districts. A field *kanungo* is responsible for the work and conduct of the *patwaris* in his charge and it is his duty to report bad work or neglect of duty or misconduct on the part of any *patwari* for the orders of the revenue officers, to whom he is subordinate.

The lowest, but very important, field official is the *patwari*. The Firozpur District is divided into 227 *patwar* circles, each of which is looked after by a *patwari*, who prepares and maintains village records and revenue statistics. The *patwari's* duties include the conducting of surveys, field inspections, the recording of crops, the revision of maps or reports relating to mutations, partitions, revenue or rent, *taccavi*, etc. Under the orders of the collector, he prepares the records of rights. He is also required to render assistance in the relief of agricultural distress or census operations. He reports the crimes and prepares maps to illustrate police enquires. The preparation of *dhal bachh* (papers regarding distribution of revenue over holdings) is his special duty.

Lambardars.—The unit of revenue administration in the Punjab is the estate which is usually identical with the village. Of these estates, large and small, a tahsil, as a rule, contains from two to four hundred villages. Each of them is separately assessed to land revenue which is the business of the Deputy Commissioner to collect, and has a separate record of rights and register of fiscal and agricultural statistics, which it is his duty to maintain. All its proprietors are by law jointly responsible for the payment

¹S. K. Sharma, Deputy Commissioner in Punjab (New Delhi, 1971), pp. 86—90

of its land revenue, and, in their dealings with Government, they are represented by one or more headmen or *lambardars*.

To make it still more effective before the abolition of the institution of *zaildars*¹ in 1948 after Independence, the clusters of villages which were united by the bond of tribal or historical association or of common interest, were usually formed into circles or *zails*, over each of which was appointed a *zaildar* chosen by the deputy commissioner from among the leading village headmen. The *zaildars* received their emoluments from Government by a deduction from the land revenue, whereas the headmen are paid by the communities which they represent by a surcharge of five per cent on the revenue. Together they formed a valuable unofficial agency, through which the deputy commissioner and the tahsildar conveyed the wishes of the Government to the people and secured the carrying out of their orders².

In making appointments of *lambardars*, the collector has to pay regard, among other matters, to his hereditary claims; the extent of property in the estate possessed by the candidate; his personal influence, character, ability and freedom from indebtedness; the strength and importance of the community, from which the selection of a headman is to be made;³ and services rendered by himself or by his family in the national movements to secure the freedom of India⁴. In order to enable him to perform duties better, it is desirable that he should be the representative of some large class of landholders. It is an elementary principle in *lambardari* cases that the collector's choice is not to be interfered with, unless it suffers from some illegality or impropriety. As regards the dismissal of village officers, the Financial Commissioners, Revenue, would properly interfere if there had been such denial of natural justice as would be involved in dismissing a man without hearing him or if the offence for which he had been dismissed was not one of those which under land revenue rules justify his dismissal. But where there is no such material irregularity or manifest illegality, the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, generally does not take notice.

A *lambadar* occupies a key position in the village administration. Besides the collection of land revenue, his main function is to keep watch over law and order in his area and report to the nearest police-station in the case of any breach of law. He is assisted in his work by the village *chowkidar*.

¹In the Punjab, the institution of Zaildars was abolished in 1948. It was revived in 1950 in some districts, but again abolished in 1954 because of opposition of press and public (Draft Report on the Reorganisation of Tahsil Administration in the Punjab, paras 2-4).

²Douis, Sir James Moc.; Punjab Land Administration Manual (Reprinted in 1972), para 204.

³Punjab Land Administration Acts and Rules Having the Force of Law Thereunder Vol. II, Rules, Pages 31-32, Land Revenue Rules No. 15, made under Section 28 of the Act.

⁴Added by Punjab Government Notification No. 7881-R-53/1010, dated 8 May 1954.

(c) Development Organisation

The District has been divided into 9 development blocks, viz. Abohar, Dharmkot, Firozpur, Fazilka, Guru Har Sahai, Ghal Khurd, Jalalabad, Khyan Sarwar and Zira. Each block is under the control of a block development and panchayat officer. Previously, he was called block development officer, but with the merger of the panchayat Department into the Development Department, his designation was changed. He has been vested with the powers of a panchayat officer under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. A block generally consists of 60 villages.

The block development and panchayat officer is under the administrative control of the chairman of the respective block samiti, subdivisional officer (civil) of the respective subdivision, and the district development and panchayat officer at the district level, besides being under the overall control of the deputy commissioner.

The block development and panchayat officer is mainly responsible for the successful implementation of development schemes. He is assisted by a social education and panchayat officer, a lady social education organizer, an overseer (popularly known as extension officer), a number of gramsevaks and gramsevikas, besides ministerial class III and class IV staff. Besides, he has a number of extension officers belonging to the departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Co-operation and Industries. They assist and advise him in their respective spheres. This was done after the introduction of the Panchayati Raj in the State in order to co-ordinate the activities of various nation building departments.

(d) General Arrangement For the Disposal of Business

In addition to the subdivisional officers (civil), tahsildars and block development and panchayat officers, the Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur is assisted by an additional deputy commissioner, a general assistant, a district revenue officer, a district officer, removal of grievances, a district transport officer, a district development and panchayat officer and executive magistrates.

Additional Deputy Commissioner—The post of an additional deputy commissioner was created with a view to providing relief to the Deputy Commissioner, Firozepur. The powers delegated to the additonal deputy commissioner are to sanction earned leave to *kanngos* and *Patwari*s ; to sanction medical reimbarsment to the staff of the office

of the Deputy Commissioner ; to entertain revision petitions under Section 16 (2) of the Punjab Land Revenue Act, Section 84 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, and review petitions under section 15 of the Punjab Land Revenue Act and section 82 of the Funjab Tenancy Act ; to entertain transfer applications under section 12 of the Land Revenue Act ; to approve rent rolls under para 12 of the Financial Commissioner's Standing Order No. 31 and to sanction other *Kishandas* of additional land revenue, mutation fee, record fee, taccavi, etc. under paras 594 and 606 of the Punjab Land Administration Manual ; to sign recovery certificates received from other districts ; and power of chief sales commissioner.

General Assistant.—He is the Deputy Commissioner's personal executive officer and assits him in all his executive and administrative functions. As such, he is the principal administrative officer and attends to routine correspondence, attestation, complaints, etc. He does little or no touring, as he has to keep a vigilant eye on the District office. Almost all the branches of the Deputy Commissioner's office are under his supervision. He is competent to correspond with the Punjab Government and other departments in the routine matters. He is Magistrate 1st class but, since the separation of the judiciary from the executive on 2 October 1964, he has been trying only security cases.

He is also holding the additional charge of Civil Defence Officer of the District. As the Civil Defence officer, he is responsible for the defence of civilian population in times of war or aggression. He is also responsible for the maintenance of fire-fightng equipment, the proper functioning of sirens, digging of trenches, first aid, extension of hospital facilities, the laying of additional beds, electricity, water facilities, etc.

District Revenue Officer.—With the abolition of the posts of revenue assistants, the duties are now being performed by the district revenue officers. The District Revenue officer, Firozpur, is responsible for the proper and correct maintenance of revenue records revenue ac counts, *muafis*, assignments, *jagirs*, etc. and service records of the *patwaris* and *Kanungos* of the Ditsrict. He is the officer-in-charge of the *sadr Kanungo*, D.R.A., Registration and Land Acquisition branches of the Deputy Commissioners' officee. He is required to watch the progress of the recovery of all government dues in the District and keep the Deputy Commissioner informed about the pace of recovery. He assists the Deputy Commissioner in carrying out the inspection of tahsils, sub-tahsils acts on his behalf for organizing special *girdawaris* for crop cess and special *girdawari* for natural calamities, floods, etc. Besides, he co-ordinates his activities with the departments, such as irrigation,

public works (B&R), Co-operation and Agriculture, so as to ensure the smooth implementation of various development schemes in which revenue work is involved. He collects information regarding agrarian reforms in the District from the collectors (agrarian) and other officers and after compiling them, he submits them every month to the Commissioner Firozpur. He is also responsible for pursuing the progress of land reforms cases in various courts and watches the interest of the State. On behalf of the D.C., the D.R.O. is responsible for the submission of the statements regarding the disposal of miscellaneous revenue work in the District every quarter to the Commissioner of the Division and half-yearly to the Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Punjab.

District Officer, Removal of Grievances.—At the District headquarters, there is the District Officer, Removal of Grievances. He is a senior magistrate or an officer of equivalent status. He redresses the grievances of the public of the District and expedites action on the complaints received by him relating to all the departments. He also acts as a coordinating officer in the disposal of the complaints of the public.

District Transport Officer.—The District Transport Officer is a senior magistrate or an officer of equivalent status. He is the Registering Authority (Motors) and Licensing Officer of the District. He is also holding the charge of the elections branch of the Deputy Commissioner's office. His main functions comprise traffic checking, survey of routes, etc.

District Development and Panchayat Officer.—This officer is in charge of the work relating to development, including local development, Five-Year Plans, *panchayats*, National Extension Service etc. He co-ordinates the activities of all the development departments in the District. The Development Branch of the Deputy Commissioner's office, which deals with the planning of development programmes and agricultural production, functions under his supervision. All the block development and panchayat officers in the District are under his control with respect to the implementation of the Rural Development Programme.

Executive Magistrates.—There are 3 executive magistrates in the District, one each at Firozpur, Abohar and at Fazilka. They attend to the court work relating to security/revenue cases. They are also responsible for the criminal work of the various police stations falling within their respective jurisdictions. Besides, the General Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, and the District Transport Officer have powers of executive magistrates.

Registration.—The Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar and in that capacity he is responsible for the registration work in the District. In the Firozpur District, the Registrar is assisted by 3 tahsildars as sub-registrars, one each in Firozpur, Fazilka and Zira tahsils. The naib-tahsildar in a tahsil is the *ex-officio* joint sub-registrar and undertakes the registration work only when the regular sub-registrar is on leave or away from the headquarters. The sub-registrar and the joint sub-registrar do registration work in addition to their own duties, for which they get a monthly honorarium. In the Abohar, Guru Har Sahai, Dharmkot and Jalalabad sub-tahsils, the registration work is done by the naib-tahsildars.

The Sub-Registrar registers the documents pertaining to the properties situated within his jurisdiction. The Registrar is, however, empowered to register any document from any tahsil of the District. He hears appeal and applications referred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act, 1908, against refusal to register documents by the sub-registrars under him.

A head registration clerk assists the Registrar at the District headquarters, and clerks/ readers assist the sub-registrar/joint sub-registrars in the tahsil/sub-tahsils in performing the registration work.

Notary Public.—There is a notary public at the District headquarters. He is appointed on the recommendations of the Legal Remembrancer, Punjab, Chandigarh, for a period of three years, which may be extended for another term. He is vested with the powers to attest all documents, wills, special powers of attorney and copies of all documents, on charges approved by the Government. He is also authorized to translate documents on payment approved by the Government.

District Attorney.—Formerly designated public Prosecutor/ Government Pleader, the District Attorney is appointed by the Home Secretary to the Government, Punjab, on the recommendations of the Legal Remembrancer. He represents the Government cases in the court of the District and Sessions Judge. He is under the administrative control of the Director, Prosecution, Litigation and Joint Secretary to Government, Punjab. He is assisted by 4 assistant district attorneys grade -I, and 16 assistant district attorneys grade II.

Oath Commissioners.—Oath commissioners are appointed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on the recommendations of the District and Sessions Judge of the District. A practising advocate of the District who has practised law at the Court for two years can become an oath commissioner on application. The oath commissioners are authorised to attest affidavits and charge Rs 1 as the attestation fee.

(e) District Committees

The following is the list of the District Committees of which the Deputy Commissioner is the Chairman or those he has to convene. They are constituted to accelerate the disposal of business. Their meetings are held at the District headquarters ;

- 1 Child Welfare Council
- 2 District Red Cross Society
- 3 Rural Development Agency
- 4 Pre-mature release of life convicts Committee

(f) State and Central Government Officers

The following State and Central Government officers are posted at the District headquarters :

State Government Officers

- 1 District and Sessions Judge, Firozpur
- 2 Civil Surgeon, Firozpur
- 3 Chief Agricultural Officer, Firozpur
- 4 District Attorney, Firozpur
- 5 District Education Officer, Firozpur
- 6 District Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur
- 7 District Food and Supplies Controller, Firozpur
- 8 District Industries Officer, Firozpur
- 9 District Public Relation Officer, Firozpur
- 10 District Statistical Officer, Firozpur
- 11 District Welfare Officer, Firozpur
- 12 District Soldiers, and Sailors and Airmen Board, Firozpur
- 13 Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Firozpur
- 14 Deputy Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur
- 15 Superintendent, Central Jail, Firozpur
- 16 District Employment Officer, Firozpur

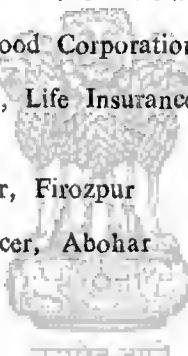
- 17 Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Firozpur
- 18 Tehsildar, Firozpur
- 19 Treasury Officer, Firozpur
- 20 Commandant, Punjab Home Guards, Firozpur
- 21 Senior Superintendent of Police, Firozpur
- 22 Deputy Superintendent of Police, C.I.D., Firozpur
- 23 Superintending Engineer, Firozpur Canal Circle, Firozpur
- 24 Superintending Engineer, Firozpur Circle, P.W.D., B.&R., Firozpur
- 25 Superintending Engineer, Drainage Construction Circle, Firozpur
- 26 Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur
- 27 Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Firozpur
- 28 Executive Engineer, P.W.D., B.&R., Construction Division Firozpur
- 29 Executive Engineer, P.W.D., B.&R., Provincial Division, Firozpur
- 30 Executive Engineer, Mechanical Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur
- 31 Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, Firozpur
- 32 Executive Engineer, Golewala Drainage Division, Firozpur
- 33 Executive Engineer, Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur
- 34 Executive Engineer, Punjab State Electricity Board, Firozpur
- 35 District Animal Husbandry Officer, Firozpur
- 36 Fisheries Officer, Firozpur
- 37 District Language Officer, Firozpur
- 38 Divisional Manager, Punjab Roadways, Firozpur
- 39 Deputy Director, Local Government, Firozpur
- 40 Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur

- 41 General Manager, Punjab Roadways, Firozpur
- 42 Divisional Forest Officer, Firozpur
- 43 Conservator of Soils, South Circle, Firozpur
- 44 District Sports Officer, Firozpur
- 45 Director of Fisheries, Firozpur
- 46 Joint Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur
- 47 District Social Welfare Officer, Firozpur
- 48 Secretary, Zila Parishad, Firozpur
- 49 Principal, I.T.I., Firozpur
- 50 Deputy Director, Panchayati Raj, Firozpur
- 51 Executive Engineer, Water Supply and Sewerage Division, Firozpur
- 52 District Manager, PUNSUP, Firozpur
- 53 District Manager, MARKFED, Firozpur
- 54 Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Firozpur
- 55 Commissioner, Firozpur Division, Firozpur
- 56 District Transport Officer, Firozpur
- 57 District Development and Panchayat Officer, Firozpur
- 58 Superintendent of Police, Vigilance, Firozpur
- 59 Deputy Inspector General of Police, Firozpur Range, Firozpur
- 60 Divisional Town Planner, Firozpur
- 61 Superintending Engineer, National Highway, Firozpur
- 62 Superintending Engineer, Punjab State Electricity Board, Firozpur
- 63 Executive Engineer, Rajasthan Feeder, Firozpur
- 64 Executive Engineer, National Highway, Firozpur
- 65 Executive Engineer, Central Works Division, Firozpur
- 66 Executive Engineer, Housing Division Board, Firozpur

- 67 Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Firozpur
- 68 Executive Engineer (R.E.), Punjab State Electricity Board, Firozpur
- 69 Superintending Engineer, Punjab State Tubewell Corporation, Firozpur
- 70 Superintendent of Police (D), Firozpur

Central Government Officers

- 1 Commandant, N.C.C. , Firozpur
- 2 Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Firozpur
- 3 Senior Superintendent of Post Offices, Firozpur
- 4 Chief Controller, Northern Railway, Firozpur
- 5 Manager, District Food Corporation of India, Firozpur
- 6 Development Officer, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Firozpur
- 7 Income Tax Officer, Firozpur
- 8 Income Tax Officer, Abohar



CHAPTER XI

REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

(a) Land Revenue Administration

(i) **History of Land Revenue Assessment and Management Village Communities and Tenures.**—Very few of the villages in this District date, at any rate in their present form, from before the commencement of the nineteenth century. There are only a few that can trace back their history up to two and a half or three and a half centuries, but the majority are of comparatively recent date and in Fazilka they date only from the middle of the nineteenth century.

Pre-British Revenue System.—No information is available as regards the method of revenue collection used by the Mughals in this District. As regards the Sikhs, it seems that the Lahore and the Ahluwalia governments used to take their revenue in cash, but the sum was fixed only for short periods; they sometimes reverted to collections in kind, especially in the Naipal and Dogar tracts. The Raja of Faridkot and the Sardarni of Firozpur took their revenue in kind. The Guru of Guru Har Sahai and the Bhais of Jhumba and Arnauli in the Kot Bhai *ilaka*, who received the status of *jagirdars* at the annexation of the Punjab in 1846, continued to collect the revenue assigned to them in kind up to 1872 settlement.

Summary Settlements.—Summary settlements were made for the various parts of the District as they came into British hands.

In 1840, Captain Lawrence made for the first time a five years settlement of *pargana* Firozpur, consisting of 64 villages, the *jama* of which was fixed at the company's Rs 19,000, inclusive of *inam* lands. This term expired in 1845, and Captain Nicholson then continued the settlement for one year longer at the same rate from *kharif* 1845 to *rabi* 1846, and Daniell extended it for one year till the end of 1847; and Major F. Mackeson, the Commissioner and Superintendent, increased the amount of assessment by one third, or to Rs 25,000 at which rate it remained till the Revised Settlement by Brandreth in 1855. The other *parganas*, included in the Firozpur District and annexed from the Sikh Government at Lahore, after the First Anglo-Sikh War, 1845-46, were also summarily assessed from 1846 till the end of 1856; but, owing to the absence of statistics, it is impossible to supply an accurate account of them.

The eastern part of the Zira Tahsil which, when first annexed, was included in the old "Wudnee" (Badhni) District was summarily settled by Campbell. No definite information is forthcoming regarding this or the summary settlement of the rest of the Firozpur and Zira tahsils. The assessments were based on the collections of Sikh predecessors, with

the result that the Muhammadan Bet was assessed considerably higher than the Sikh uplands.

In 1856, the *ilaka* of the Nawab of Mamdot was summarily assessed after its annexation in November 1855. Lump cash sums were imposed for the first two years and the villages left to distribute it among themselves. It consisted then of 242 villages and 70 *chaks*, which were surveyed and mapped under the supervision of Thomson, Assistant Commissioner, and Muhammad Sultan, Extra Assistant Commissioner. The total *jama* proposed amounted to Rs 33,786, inclusive of the sum of Rs 6,223 derived from lease of jungle tracks, and the average rate of assessment was 12 annas a *ghumaon*. Originally, this settlement was sanctioned for five years, but it lasted up to 1871—75. *Pargana* Bahak was apparently never summarily settled. Other estates seem to have been summarily assessed as they were colonized.

Regular Settlements¹.—Brandreth carried out the Regular Settlement of the Zira Tahsil and Firozpur proper in 1853-54. He also settled the Bahak *pargana* in 1856-57. This settlement ran for thirty years. The First Regular Settlement of the Mamdot Jagir was carried out by Purser in 1872-79. The remainder of the present Fazilka Tahsil was settled by J.H. Oliver between 1857 and 1863.

Rewards of the Regular Settlement².—K.B. Francis revised the assessment of the whole of the old Firozpur District between the years 1884 and 1891. The term sanctioned was twenty-five years for the northern tahsils and twenty years for the Mamdot Jagir. Francis raised the assessment considerably, the percentage of increase being 52 per cent in Zira, 59 in Firozpur and 78 per cent in Mamdot. These figures were calculated on a comparison of the total demand of the last year of the expiring settlement with that of the first year of the new demand including *khush haisiyati*, or water-advantage rate on irrigation done from the Grey Canals. This rate was imposed for the first time by Francis.

The first revision of the Fazilka Tahsil was carried out by Sir James Wilson in 1883. Owing to the alteration in the boundaries of the tahsil, which took place when the Sirsa District was broken up and the Fazilka Tahsil was transferred to Firozpur, it is impossible to say what the total increase taken by Wilson was but the general increase in the Rohi Circle, as then constituted, was 81 per cent, in the Utar 47 per cent, and in the Hithar Circle, which was mostly placed under a system of fluctuating

¹M.M.L. Currie, *Final Report of the Revised Settlement, 1910 to 1914, of the Firozpur District (Lahore, 1915)*, p. 5

²Ibid., p. 6

assessment, it was estimated at about 26 per cent. The introduction of the Sirhind Canal made the assessment nominal in the Rohi and it was light in the Utar, but owing to a succession of bad harvests, suspensions amounted to 9 per cent of the annual demand and remissions to 1½ per cent. The main features of Wilson's settlement in Fazilka were the grant of proprietary rights to the lessees of the farmed villages and of occupancy rights to their tenants and the great extension of the fluctuating system in the Hithar Circle. Wilson's settlement was sanctioned for 20 years.

The Fazilka Tahsil was resettled in 1900-01 by C.M. King. He extended the fluctuating system to all the villages of the Hithar Circle and introduced the *khush haisiyati*, or the water-advantage rate consequent upon the irrigation from the Grey Canals in the Utar Circle. His assessment resulted in an increased of nearly 64 per cent in the tract as a whole, the enhancement amounting to 69 per cent in the Rohi, 80 per cent in the Utar and 19 per cent in the Hithar according to his estimate of the proceeds of the fluctuating system.

Revised Settlement, 1910-15.—The settlement of 1910-15 was the second revision of the assessment for the Zira and Firozpur tahsils and the Mamdot *Jagir* and the third revision in the Fazilka Tahsil. Operations commenced in November 1910 and the settlement was closed in the spring of 1915. The assessment of the Zira Tahsil was carried out by L. Middleton, Assistant Settlement Officer, and that of the remainder of the District by M.M.L. Currie, Settlement Officer.

The following table shows in a summary form the results of the reassessment of the different parts of the District :

Tract	Old demand		New demand		Total	Fluctuating estimated	Total	Percentage of	
	Fixed last year	Fluctuating average	Fixed, final	Estimated				Increase, column 7 on column 4	True half net assets absorbed
1	2 Rs	3 Rs	4 Rs	5 Rs	6 Rs	7 Rs	8	9	
Firozpur proper	..	1,17,254	10,083	1,27,337	1,49,407	15,249	1,64,656	29.	38
Zira	..	2,24,366	12,876	2,37,182	2,89,207	28,891	3,18,098	34	41
Mandot Jagir	..	1,12,018	[23,936	1,36,004	[120,627	36,277	1,56,904	15	48
Fazlka	..	1,49,929	35,218	1,35,147	2,96,327	37,221	3,33,548	80	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
District	..	6,03,507	82,163	6,85,670	8,55,568	1,17,638	9,73,206	42	..

The most important ground for the enhancement of the revenue was the rise in prices and the greatly increased value of land; this was applicable to the whole of the District. The actual rise in prices may at a moderate estimate be put at 50 per cent in the last 20 years, while the value of the land doubled at least and in some parts even quadrupled within the same period. Secondly, in the tract irrigated by the Sirhind Canal, at the previous settlements, no account had been taken of with respect to the value of the profits of canal irrigation. Thirdly, the previous assessments had everywhere been extremely lenient when originally imposed. Fourthly, in Fazilka, there had been a considerable extension in the cultivated area.

Working of the Settlement of 1910—15.—The assessment made in the settlement operations in 1910—15 was due for re-assessment after 30 years. But it could not be undertaken on account of the World War-II (1939—45), followed by the partition of the country and its independence in 1947. The land revenue, therefore, continued to be the same as was fixed during the last settlement.

The charges of land revenue, fixed early in the second decade of the present century, had lost their contact with the income accruing from land. With the expansion of Government establishment and the introduction of various development plans, the Government expenditure had also vastly increased, particularly since Independence. The State Government, therefore, tapped different sources of revenue to meet this ever-growing demand. As regards land revenue, in addition to the assessed demand of land revenue of 1910—15, the Additional Land Revenue is being levied in accordance with the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1974.

(ii) *Collection of Land Revenue.*—The revenue collection is the responsibility of the *lambardar* (village headman). Under the First Regular Settlement of the District in 1853-54, the village *lambardars* were required to collect the land revenue from the concerned communities of landowners. All the *lambardars*, wherever possible, were appointed headmen to compose the claims of rural claimants in regular settlement. These were different from the local leaders, such as *tholedar*, *pattidars*, etc. *Tholedars*, who were representatives chosen by the people, have been replaced by the village *panches*. The *Tholedari* system has been totally abolished. The hereditary claims of the *lambardars* are still in vogue. The vacancies of *lambardars*, which fell vacant owing to the migration of the Muslim *lambardars*, in 1947, were filled up by the permanent evacuee *lambardars*.

The *zaildari* system was introduced during the settlement of 1884—91 to assist the *lambardars* in the realization of the revenue arrears. The

ala lambardars appointed in 1879, had been a failure. In 1909, it was decided to do away with this institution gradually. In their place, *sufedposhs* were appointed.

Since the beginning of the Third Regular Settlement in 1910—15, vacancies of *ala lambardars* have not been filled up and, in their place, it was decided to create *suffedposhi inams*. Till 1948, the agencies of *zaildars*, *sufedposhi inams* and *lambardars* continued to be responsible for the collection of land revenue. *Zaildars* and *suffedposhs* were paid from a portion, usually one per cent of the land revenue, which was set aside for the purpose. The agencies of *zaildari* and *sufedposhi* were abolished in 1948. These were revived in 1950, but were again abolished in 1952.

Now only *lambardars* are responsible for the collection of revenue on payment of *pachotra*, a cess charged at the rate of 5 per cent of the land revenue. In case, the *lambardar* is unable to collect the land revenue, he makes a written complaint to the *tahsildar* who helps to effect the recovery. At present, Harijan *lambardars* have also been appointed, but they are not authorised to collect land revenue, etc. They can only attest the bail bonds in the courts.

Besides land revenue, the *lambardars* collect *abiana* and the water-advantage rate, for which they are paid 3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively as collection charges.

The *lambardars* are authorised to remit land revenue by post; but this system is not so popular because majority of them generally find it more convenient and economical to visit the tahsil headquarters personally for crediting the land revenue in the tahsil treasury than sending it through money order.

(iv) Income from Land Revenue and Special Cesses

Land Revenue.—The land revenue, fixed, as in the last settlement of 1910—15, is realized to this day as there has been no revised settlement thereafter.

In 1961, the Punjab Land Revenue (Thur, Sem, Chos and Sand) Remission and Supervision Rules, 1961, were enforced, under which land revenue of all lands rendered unculturable on account of *thur* and *sem* is remitted.

Land revenue is realized in two instalments, i.e. for *kharif* crop by 15 December and for *rabi* crops by 15 June. The following statement gives the details of income from land revenue and remission in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80:

**Income from Land Revenue and Remissions in the Firozpur District, 1972-73 to
1979-80**

Year ending <i>Rabi</i>	Previous year's balance	Demand	Total amount for recovery	Actual recovery	Remission	Balance
		Rs	Rs		Rs	Rs
1972-73	2,16,281	₹ 7,71,947	9,88,228	₹ 5,02,649	₹ 1,87,446	2,98,133
1973-74	2,98,133	₹ 7,70,265	10,68,398	₹ 3,79,077	—	6,89,321
1974-75	6,89,321	7,69,665	14,58,986	₹ 4,09,195	—	10,49,791
1975-76	10,49,791	7,69,582	18,19,373	3,50,655	6,75,198	7,93,520
1976-77	9,93,520	7,68,174	15,61,694	3,72,374	—	11,89,320
1977-78	11,89,320	7,67,574	19,46,894	3,90,390	30,826	15,25,678
1978-79	15,25,678	7,67,124	22,92,802	3,94,143	14,83,033	4,15,626
1979-80	4,15,626	7,71,919	11,87,545	3,87,809	—	7,99,736

(Source: Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

Special Cesses.—Besides the land revenue, the following cesses are levied on the landowners :

Village Officers' Cess

The *patwar* cess was remitted in 1906. With the abolition of *zaildari* and *sufedposhi* agencies in 1948, only *pachotra* at the rate of 5 per cent of the land revenue is charged as the village officers' cess in the District.

Local Rate

It has grown from small beginnings. It was usual in early settlements to levy a road cess at 1 per cent of the land revenue. Subsequently, education and postal cesses amounting to 1 per cent and 1½ per cent respectively were added. But, under the Punjab Local Rates Act (XX) of 1871, a local rate amounting to 6½ per cent of the land revenue was imposed. The local rate was raised by the Punjab Local Rates Act (V) of 1878 from 6½ per cent to 8½ per cent for providing the famine-stricken people with relief.

With the passing of the Punjab District Boards Act (XX) of 1883, the road, education and postal cesses were merged into the local rate, and the legal limit of the rate was raised to 12½ per cent of the land revenue and the owners' rate, and, under this Act, the whole of the local rate was credited to the District Board.

Later on, the local rate was reduced to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It was raised to $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent—*vide* Notification No. 1393-L6-45/9263, dated 29 May 1945, to be enforced from 1 April 1945. But, before the recovery could be effected, it was further raised to $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent—*vide* Notification No. 3497-L6-45/26559, dated 5 October 1945, to be enforced retrospectively from 1 April 1975.

The local rate was further increased to 25 per cent of the land revenue *vide* Notification No. 4393-B&C-48/22423, dated 26 April 1948, to be enforced from *kharif* 1947. It was still further raised from *kharif* 1948 to 50 per cent of the land revenue, and it continues to be enforced.

The table below shows the amount of local rate collections in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1979-80:

Year ending <i>rabi</i>	Local rate collections
	Rs
1972-73	7,13,815
1973-74	7,22,460
1974-75	10,15,604
1975-76	9,83,656
1976-77	9,20,235
1977-78	10,57,696
1978-79	10,07,136
1979-80	10,23,943

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

Additional Land Revenue

The surcharge and the special charge on land revenue were levied under the Punjab Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1954 and the Punjab Land Revenue (Special Charge) Act, 1958. These Acts were repealed with effect from the *kharif* harvest of the agricultural year, 1974-75, by the Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1974, which instead levied additional land revenue on every landowner who paid land revenue

in excess of twenty rupees. The additional land revenue is levied at different rates as under

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Where the total land revenue exceeds twenty rupees but does not exceed fifty rupees annually | Two hundred per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds twenty rupees. |
| 2 Where the total land revenue exceeds fifty rupees but does not exceed one hundred rupees annually | Sixty rupees plus two hundred and fifty per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds fifty rupees. |
| 3 Where the total land revenue exceeds one hundred rupees but does not exceed two hundred rupees annually | One hundred and eighty-five rupees plus three hundred per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds one hundred rupees. |
| 4 Where the total land revenue exceeds two hundred rupees annually | Four hundred and eighty-five rupees plus three hundred and fifty per cent of the amount by which the total land revenue exceeds two hundred rupees. |

The table below gives the income from additional land revenue in the Firozpur District during 1974-75 to 1979-80.

Year	Income from additional land revenue	Rs
1974-75	47,630	
1975-76	40,513	
1976-77	42,021	
1977-78	45,394	
1978-79	43,865	
1979-80	37,435	

(Source: Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

Abiana

Abiana is charged on the area irrigated by canals. The income from this source in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given hereunder :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Collections from abiana</i>	Rs
1972-73	67,68,026	
1973-74	71,69,197	
1974-75	14,16,708	
1975-76	1,14,59,791	
1976-77	1,60,97,027	
1977-78	1,63,67,357	
1978-79	1,59,99,937	
1979-80	1,66,07,677	

(Source : Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

(b) Land Reforms

Land is an important factor in agricultural production. The conditions and circumstances concerning the ownership and cultivation of land have an important bearing on agricultural productivity. Agricultural progress cannot be achieved satisfactorily if the tenancy conditions and tenure system remain outdated. Land reforms are, therefore, essential for agricultural development. These reforms also promote, on the one hand, the well-being and contentment of the individual owner and, on the other, the stability of the society.

Generally, land reforms impinge upon a number of agrarian problems, such as the methods of forming land ; the distribution of land ownership and the legal and customary institutions of land tenure ; and rural social conditions and the political forces which work for and against

social change. These land reforms in the end aim at a better distribution of income and a broader social equality.

The relationship between the landlord and the tenant, based on old-time traditional beliefs, had been, for a long time past, getting strained to the detriment of both agricultural and the cultivator. Attempts have, therefore, been made to put the relationship on statutory basis, eliminating altogether the intermediaries. Thus the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887, (Act XVI of 1887) was enacted. Although it provided for the regularization of the right of occupancy, yet this right was restricted to a small number of tenants. At the same time, while the occupancy right was inalienable, in the Punjab it could be mortgaged, sold or given away. The other tenants, who did not have the right of occupancy and did not hold for a fixed term under a contract of a decree or order of competent authority, could be ejected at the end of any agricultural year. The security of tenure¹ assured to the Punjab tenant was, therefore, nominal.

The previous land ceiling laws did not achieve the objective of reducing inequalities of income and wealth, sufficiently, mainly, because of exemption provided for various categories of landowners. On the basis of national guide lines, the Punjab Land Reforms Act, 1972, was passed on 14 December 1972. In order to carry out the objectives of the Act, the Punjab Land Reform Rules, 1973 were framed. According to these rules, the Subdivisional Officers (Civil), exercising the powers of the Assistant Collector, 1st Grade, has been authorized to function as the Collector. A scheme, namely, the Punjab Utilization of Surplus Areas Scheme, 1973, has also been framed under the provisions of the Act for utilizing the surplus areas¹.

The Punjab Abolition of Ala Malkiyat and Talukadari Right Act, 1952, extinguished all rights, title and interest of an *ala malik* in the land held under him by an *adna malik* and required the latter to pay compensation to the former. The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1953, declared all the occupancy tenants as owners of the land.

The post-Independence (1947) land reforms programme, outlined in the First Five-Year Plan (1951—56), and further elaborated in the second (1956—61) and Third (1961—66) Plans, is, therefore, an essential part of the scheme of agricultural development and rural reconstruction. Its objectives are to remove such motivational and other impediments to increase in agricultural production as arise from the agrarian structure inherited from the past, to create conditions for evolving an agricultural economy with high levels of efficient and productivity and to eliminate

¹Punjab on the March 1974, pp. 165—167

elements of exploitation and social injustice. 'Land to the tiller' has been adopted as the main concept in the scheme of land reforms which contemplates that owner-cultivation should be established on the widest possible scale and all cultivators should go into direct relation with the State.

In pursuance of the agrarian reforms, the State Government have made the following enactments :

- 1 The East Punjab Utilization of Lands Act, 1949 (East Punjab Act XXXVIII of 1949)
- 2 The Punjab Occupancy Tenants (Vesting of Proprietary Rights) Act, 1952 (Punjab Act VIII of 1953)
- 3 The Punjab Abolition of Ala Malkiat and Talukdari Rights Act, 1952 (Punjab Act IX of 1953)
- 4 The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953 (Punjab Act X of 1953)
- 5 The Punjab Bhoojan Yagna Act, 1955 (Punjab Act 45 of 1956)
- 6 The Punjab Resumption of Jagirs Act, 1957 (Punjab Act 39 of 1957)
- 7 The Punjab Village Common Lands (Regulation) Act, 1961 (Punjab Act 18 of 1961)
- 8 The Punjab Land Reforms Act, 1972

The distribution of land among various classes of cultivators/landholders in the Firozpur District, during 1972-73 to 1979-80, is given in the following statement :

Distribution of land among various classes of cultivators/land-holders in the Firozpur District, 1972-73 to 1979-80
 (Area in acres)

Class of cultivators/land-holders	Year				
	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Total cultivated area ..	12,51,033	12,56,185	15,55,365	12,60,661	12,57,482
Tenants at will ..	3,72,920	3,24,939	5,20,135	5,13,333	5,34,575
Owners ..	8,113	9,31,246	10,35,230	7,47,328	7,26,086
Tenants with rights of occupancy ..	—	—	—	—	—

(Source :Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur)

Security of Land Tenures.—The security of tenure is essential to the carrying on of good farming. If the farmer feels insecure, he will not take much interest in cultivation, and production will suffer. Legislation providing for the security of tenure has, therefore, been made.

The Punjab Security of Land Tenures Act, 1953, as amended up to date, has not only reduced the acreage which can be reserved but has also specifically prohibited the ejectment of tenants from all unreserved areas, except in cases of default with respect to the payment of rent or proper cultivation.¹ Rent has been limited to one-third of the crop or equal to its value or to the customary rent in case it is lower. The payment for services provided by the landlord is, however, excluded from the computation of rent. The Act further extends the opportunities for tenants to become owners. A tenant of 4 years' standing acquires a right of pre-emption at sales of foreclosure; but, what is more important is that the tenants of 6 year's standing are allowed to buy non-reserved area from their landlords at three-fourths of 10 years' average of prices of similar land.

The Government have been further empowered to utilize the surplus area of both landowners and tenants for the resettlement of ejected tenants, landless labourers and small landowners. All areas owned by a local owner above 30 standard acres and by a displaced person above 50 standard acres would be considered 'surplus' area. A small owner, who owns up to 30 standard acres, cannot eject a tenant under the Act from 5 standard acres unless the tenant has been settled by Government on surplus area.

By 31 March 1980, 10,989 cases of surplus area were decided and 43,254 standard acres was declared surplus in the Firozepur District. By the same date, 3,570 eligible tenants were resettled on the surplus-area. Proprietary rights were given to the tenants with respect to 3,274 standard acres.

Utilization of Land.—Land is a primary factor, without which no production is possible. But land in a country is of various categories and can be used in different ways. Broadly speaking, land is used for two purposes-agricultural and non-agricultural. Agricultural land is used for growing food crops and non-food crops. Non-agricultural land is used for residential and industrial purposes. Here we are mainly concerned with the agricultural use of land.

In pursuance of its policy utilize every inch of available culturable land for growing more food and other essential crops, the Government enforced the East Punjab Utilisation of Lands Act, 1949. Under this Act, a notice is served on every landowner who allows his land to remain uncultivated for 6 or more consecutive harvests and the land, thus taken over,

¹The Punjab Act XI of 1955 adds vide section 9—A that no tenant liable to ejection shall be dispossessed of his tenancy unless he is accommodated on a surplus area or otherwise on some land by the State Government.

is leased out to others for a term ranging from 7 to 20 years, priority being given to Harijans. Under the provisions of this Act, 3,717 acres has been taken over and leased out 1,019 acres among Harijans and 2,698 acres among others in the District.

Consolidation of Holdings.—By consolidation is meant the bringing together in one compact block a cultivator's all plots of land scattered all over the village. Consolidation is achieved by first pooling all land in the village in one block and then dividing it into compact blocks among all the owners in the village. Consolidation saves time and labour, facilitates the improvement of land through irrigation as well as through dry-farming practices, and provides an opportunity for replanning individual holdings and the village *abadi* and for providing roads and other amenities, such as playgrounds and hospitals. As a result of consolidation, there has been a reduction in the number of plots. Roads have been straightened. Land has been reserved for schools and for other public purposes. It also facilitates the management of land and leads to investment to improve it. In undulating areas, it facilitates soil-conservation measures by replanning consolidated holdings along contours, and in other areas, it makes the developing of irrigation and drainage projects easy.

Before 1948, the work of consolidation of holdings was being carried on by the Co-operative Department of the State. This Department had been doing this work since 1930, but in the absence of the force of legislation, the work did not much make headway. With the attainment of Independence, the State Government realized the importance of the consolidation of holdings and enacted the East Punjab Holdings (Consolidation and Prevention of Fragmentation) Act, 1948, and created a separate Consolidation Department in 1949.

The Act has got the provisions to reserve lands for common purposes. The circular road, with additional plots for the extension of *abadi*, is also provided. Landless residents of the villages are to be given suitable plots free of charge for residential purposes out of the common pool.

Consolidation is a great boon to the agriculturist. The tiller is saved to a great extent from the labour of supervising and irrigating the holdings when they are scattered. He can avail himself of the facilities of modern agricultural implements and can introduce and can mechanize the cultivation of his consolidated area. A lot of virgin land is also reclaimed by the Government as a corollary to the scheme. In fact, consolidation improves tremendously the economic condition of a tiller of land. The chances of litigation have also been reduced as a sequel to consolidation.

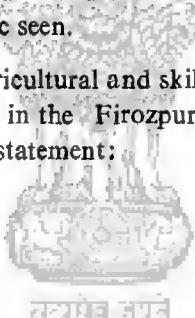
A large amount of waste land has also been brought under cultivation. The scale of measurement and the size of fields have become uniform.

In the Firozpur District, the consolidation of holdings started in July 1953. Now it has almost been completed. The work was started in the Zira Tahsil in July 1953 in the Firozpur Tahsil in April 1958, and in the Fazilka Tahsil in May, 1960.

“Bhooadaan”.—Bhooadaan is the voluntary contribution of land from the ‘haves’ to ‘have-nots’. The Punjab Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1955, was passed to promote the movement initiated in 1952 by Acharya Vinoba Bhave. In the Firozepur District, 405 acres has since been given in Bhooadan and 294 acres has been distributed among the people.

Rural Wages and Conditions of Agricultural Labour.—The plight of agricultural labour is far from satisfactory. This category of labour is not organised. Wages for agricultural labour have no doubt increased during the past few years, but favourable conditions of work or benefits of service are nowhere to be seen.

The wages paid to agricultural and skilled workers (men) in a selected village, viz. Sodhi Nagar in the Firozpur Tahsil during 1972 to 1980 are given in the following statement:



*Wages paid to Agricultural and Skilled Labourers (men) in a selected village, Sodhi Nagar, in the Firozpur Tahsil during 1970-80.

Year	Agricultural Labour						Skilled Labour					
	For ploughing		For sowing		For weeding		For harvesting		For other	For other	Black-	Carpenter
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	agricul-	cotton	agricul-	smith	
1970	6.18	6.25	6.19	7.67	2.00	6.25	6.25	12.38	12.38	12.38	12.38	12.38
1971	7.17	7.00	7.00	10.60	..	..	7.17	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
1972	6.67	6.60	6.57	9.08	..	..	6.73	11.83	11.83	11.83	11.83	11.83
1973	7.50	7.00	7.50	11.67	..	..	7.47	11.71	11.71	11.71	11.71	11.71
1974	9.88	10.37	8.07	8.50	5.08	5.08	9.95	14.17	14.17	14.17	14.17	14.17
1975	11.40	11.40	11.40	10.64	..	..	11.40	15.55	15.55	15.55	15.55	15.55
1976	11.31	11.00	10.86	11.89	..	..	11.40	19.38	19.38	19.38	19.38	19.38
1977	12.68	12.50	12.29	13.50	..	..	12.55	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18	23.18
1978	13.83	13.93	13.75	13.50	..	..	13.79	24.17	24.17	24.17	24.17	24.17
1979	12.90	12.94	13.04	15.12	12.75	12.75	13.71	24.67	24.67	24.67	24.67	24.67
1980	13.87	13.59	13.63	13.25	..	..	13.87	25.26	25.26	25.26	25.26	25.26

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab 1970 to 1980)

*For a normal working day of eight hours.

(c) Other Sources of Revenue, State and Central

The revenues of India were classified into Indian Provincial and Divided heads until 1920 when, following the introduction of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, the divided heads were abolished and a complete separation took place between the Central and Provincial revenues. From that time, two types of revenues, viz. Central and Provincial (now State), have been current in the country.

(i) Other Sources of State Revenue.—The other sources of State revenue, besides the land revenue are : Stamp Duty, Registration Fee, Excise Tax, Urban Immovable Property Tax, Salex Tax, Passengers and Goods Tax, Entertainment Tax, Entertainment Duty, Central Sales Tax, Electricity Duty and Copying Fee.

Stamp Duty.—The Indian Stamp Act (No. II) of 1899 came into force on 1 July 1899. It was amended by the Punjab Act VIII of 1922. The second amendment was made by the Indian Stamp (Punjab Second Amendment) Act (No. 34) of 1960.

Stamp revenue (duty) is derived from the sale of non-judicial or revenue stamps.

The judicial or court-fee stamps are sold under the Court Fee Act, 1870. This Act requires the Collector (Deputy Commissioner) to ensure that the documents are properly stamped according to the schedule.

The income realized in the Firozpur District from the sale of judicial or court-fee stamps and non-judicial or revenue stamps during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is as under:

Year	Judicial stamps or court-fee stamps	Non-Judicial or revenue stamps	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1972-73	..	5,01,00,058	12,76,934
1973-74	..	64,44,876	7,97,408
1974-75	..	88,30,740	7,35,923
1975-76	..	87,75,953	7,81,664

contd.

Year	Judicial stamps or court-fee stamps	Non-Judicial or revenue stamps	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1976-77	.. 90,62,367	9,08,612	99,70,979
1977-78	.. 2,40,62,276	9,43,957	2,50,06,233
1978-79	.. 1,89,64,985	14,32,631	2,03,97,616
1979-80	.. 2,04,42,264	14,04,646	2,18,46,910

(Source : Treasury Officer, Firozpur)

Registration Fee.—Under the Indian Registration Act (XVI) of 1908, compulsory registration is required in the case of all documents pertaining to immovable property, and optional registration is provided for other documents. Documents which fulfil the prescribed requirements and for which the required stamp duty and registration fee are paid are registered. The chief items of receipts collected by the Registration Department are with respect to the registration of documents, the making or granting of copies, the searching of registers and the authentication of powers of attorney. The State Government have exempted or partially exempted the levying of the registration fee with respect to (i) the documents pertaining to societies registered under the Co-operative Societies Act and Land Mortgage Banks, (ii) the mortgage deeds executed by government servants with respect to advances for house-building, (iii) encumbrance certificates issued in connection with the loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

The Inspector-General of Registration, Punjab, is the head of the Registration Department at the State level, with headquarters at Jalandhar. At the district level, the Deputy Commissioner is the Registrar who supervises the registration work in the District. He is assisted by 3 tahsildars as sub-registrars, one in each of the 3 tahsils. Three naib-tahsildars are also assisting the tahsildars in the tahsils. The registration work in Jalalabad, Abohar, Guru Har Sahai and Dharamkot sub-tahsils is done by the naib-tahsildars as joint sub-registrars. The State Government is authorized to appoint any Cantonment magistrate joint sub-registrar temporarily. The subdivisional officer (civil) in a tahsil is the *ex-officio* inspector of registration and he undertakes the

registration work only when the regular sub-registrar is on leave or away from the headquarters. He also inspects the work of the sub-registrar and of the joint sub-registrar twice a year. The sub-registrar and the joint sub-registrar do registration work in addition to their own duties and, thus, get honorarium @ Rs 50 and Rs 35 per mensem respectively.

The sub-registrar registers the documents pertaining to the properties situated within his jurisdiction. The registrar is, however, empowered to register any document from any tahsil of the District. The registrar hears appeals and applications preferred to him under sections 72 and 73 of the Indian Registration Act (XVI) of 1908 against refusal to register documents by the sub-registrars under him.

The following statement shows the numbers of registered documents, the value of property transferred and receipts in the District, from 1972-73 to 1979-80:



FIROZPUR

Number and description of registered documents and the value of the property transferred in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1978-79

Year	Number of registration				Aggregate value of property transferred in (000, Rs)					
	Number of registration offices	Immovable property		Total	Movable property	Grand total	Immovable property	Movable property	Total	Total receipts (Rs'000)
		Compulsory	Optional							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1972-73	..	5	16,580	—	16,580	830	17,410	1,11,434	—	1,542
1973-74	..	6	20,490	—	20,490	851	21,341	1,43,569	—	1,619
1974-75	..	6	18,842	3	18,845	893	19,740	1,36,262	1	1,36,263
1975-76	..	6	17,700	1	17,701	931	18,632	1,90,590	—	1,90,590
1976-77	..	6	17,595	1	17,596	869	18,465	1,79,739	—	1,79,739
1977-78	..	6	21,824	—	21,824	—	21,824	2,39,283	—	2,39,283
1978-79	..	6	21,415	—	21,415	1,122	22,537	2,68,182	1	2,68,183
1979-80	..	6	22,539	2	22,541	2,139	24,680	2,26,719	52	2,26,771
										2,26,772

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1973 to 1980 and Inspector-General of Registration Punjab, Jalandhar)

Excise Tax.—For the implementation of the Excise and Taxation Acts, the District is under the control of the Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur, who is assisted by 10 excise and taxation officers, 17 taxation inspectors, 2 district excise inspectors and 8 excise Inspectors, besides the staff of other categories. The District falls under the jurisdiction of the Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur Division, Firozpur.

The State and Central Excise Acts enforced in the State are :

The Punjab Excise Act, 1914 ; The Punjab Local Option Act, 1923 ; The Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 ; The Punjab Molasses Control Act, 1948 ; The Indian Power Alcohol Act, 1948 ; and The Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Act, 1955.

Sales Tax.—The sales tax is levied under the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1948, which repealed the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941, on 1 May 1948.

Passengers and Goods Tax.—This tax has been levied under the Punjab Passengers and Goods Tax Act, 1952, with effect from 1 September 1952, on all fares and freights with respect to passengers carried and goods transported in motor-vehicles in the Punjab. The rate of tax has been enhanced from time to time. Since 6 April 1978, the rate of tax has been 35 per cent of the fare and freight. In the same year, the annual rate of tax per truck was Rs 1,050 in the plains.

Entertainment Tax.—The Punjab Entertainments Tax (Cinematograph Shows) Act, 1954, came into force on 4 May 1954. The tax is levied for every show on the number of occupied seats of a cinema. The Act provides that the tax shall not exceed Rs 150 per show in any case and shall be charged proportionately for a fraction of 100 seats.

Entertainments Duty.—The Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1955, repealed the Punjab Entertainments Duty Act, 1936, with effect from 4 November 1955. The rates of duty are changed from time to time. According to Notification No. S.O. 23/P.A. 16/55/53/78, dated 3 May 1978, the rate of entertainments duty, including that on complementary tickets, shall be 125 per cent of the payment for admission to any entertainments to which persons are ordinarily admitted on payment.

Central Sales Tax.—The Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, which came into force in January 1957, provides for the levying of tax on sales effected in the course of inter-State trade and commerce. The States have been authorised to administer this tax on behalf of the Government of India. The entire collections are appropriated by the States.

Electricity Duty.—The Punjab Electricity (Duty) Act, 1958, was enforced on 1 April 1958. The duty was levied to meet the additional financial burdens undertaken by the State on account of the introduction of free education and provincialization of the schools of local bodies. The duty is levied on the energy supplied by the Punjab State Electricity Board to a consumer or a licensee and it is collected by the Board along with the bills for the energy supplied.

Copying Fee.—The copying fee is levied under the Punjab Copying Fees Act, 1936. Copies of orders, etc. are supplied to the public on ordinary and urgent bases, the charges for which are Rs 2·25 and 4·25 respectively. Copies on ordinary basis are to be supplied in seven days, whereas those on urgent basis are to be supplied within 24 hours.

The collections from the above mentioned taxes in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 are shown in the following statement:



Collections from other sources of State revenue in the Firozpur District during 1972-73 to 1979-80

Serial No.	Tax	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
		Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1	Excise Tax	..	1,12,10,731	1,44,61,767	1,73,43,451	2,12,23,943	2,28,73,943	2,97,63,113	2,74,74,217
2	Sales Tax	..	2,19,03,121	2,42,72,351	2,18,15,912	3,01,65,501	5,37,47,001	4,20,36,453	4,69,69,425
3	Passengers and Goods Tax	..	50,30,728	61,27,258	75,51,397	84,65,919	99,97,705	1,22,20,599	1,34,22,584
4	Entertainment Tax	..	1,23,019	1,25,928	1,41,721	1,72,647	1,85,095	2,07,269	3,38,130
5	Entertainments Duty	9,98,603	14,72,817	20,96,933	23,68,122	26,75,042	32,27,982	43,08,481	45,39,087
6	Central Sales Tax	..	79,20,456	69,97,691	1,26,54,802	1,05,67,927	91,22,564	92,18,405	1,00,12,795
7	Electricity Duty	..	7,08,311	9,35,625	7,56,196	12,78,216	23,90,177	28,50,160	38,88,403
8	Copying Fee	..	61,218	72,362	74,196	74,679	67,431	66,432	75,652
									71,340

(Source: Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur; Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur; and Chief Electrical Inspector to Government, Punjab, Patiala)

(ii) Central Sources of Revenue

Central Excise Duties.—The Assistant Collector, Central Excise, Patiala, is in charge of the Central Excise Patiala Division, Patiala, which comprises the Faridkot, Firozpur, Sangrur, Patiala and Bathinda districts. The Firozpur District is under the supervision of the Superintendent, Central Excise, Moga, who supervises one sector office of the Firozpur District, located at Abohar. The sector office is looked after by the Inspector, Central Excise, Abohar.

The main sources of the central excise duty in the District are: cellulosic spun yarn, non-cellulosic spun yarn, fancy yarn, gold-dealers, etc.

The Acts, under which the duty is collected, are: The Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944; The Produce Cess Act, 1966; The Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development (Additional Excise Duty on Cloth) Act, 1953, The Cotton Fabrics (Additional Excise Duty) Act, 1957, and the Additional Duty of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957.

Income Tax.—It is levied under the Income Tax Act, 1961, which replaced the Indian Income Tax Act, 1922, on 1 April 1962. This tax is the best possible equitable means of distributing the burden of Government expenditure. Income, above a certain specified level and subject to certain exemptions, is taxed at a progressive rate. The income tax is levied in accordance with the rates specified in the Finance Act of the relevant year passed by Parliament.

Wealth Tax.—It is levied under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957. It is chargeable on the net wealth of an individual and a Hindu undivided family.

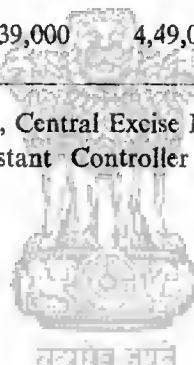
Gift Tax.—The tax is levied under the Gift Tax Act, 1958, on all gifts made after the date of the enforcement of the Act (i.e. 1 April 1958), if the total value of the gift (movable or immovable) exceeds the limit specified by the Finance Act passed by Parliament in a particular year.

Estate Duty.—The Estate Duty Act, 1953, was enforced on 15 October 1953. The duty is leviable on the estates of persons dying after this date. For the levying of the estate duty, the Firozpur District falls under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Controller of Estate Duty, Patiala.

The collections from the Central source of revenue in the Firozpur District from 1975-76 to 1979-80 are given below:

Year	Central excise duties	Income tax	Wealth tax	Gift tax	Estate duty
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1975-76	6,01,047	—	—	—	1,42,000
1976-77	6,73,480	51,06,000	2,20,000	36,000	—
1977-78	19,88,493	76,39,000	2,58,000	44,000	3,28,000
1978-79	57,99,255	84,57,000	6,99,000	38,000	3,12,000
1979-80	99,58,049	87,39,000	4,49,000	50,000	3,75,000

(Source: Superintendent, Central Excise Moga; Income Tax Officer, Firozpur and Assistant Controller of Estate Duty, Jalandhar)



CHAPTER XII

LAW AND ORDER AND JUSTICE

(a) Incidence of Crime in the District

The Firozpur District presents inherently typical features, which have a rational bearing on the intrinsic assessment and appreciation of the prevailing state of crime. The close proximity of Pakistan affords ample opportunities to the criminal elements to indulge in "hit-and-run" tactics with impunity. This District, which is notoriously criminal, abounds in party factions, blood feuds and extremely impulsive, violent and revengeful outlook among the rural folk, indicating a complete negation of the spirit of "forgive and forget".

To some extent, smuggling exists on all land borders throughout the world. In the beginning, it was considered a normal corollary of the partition of the country. In early stages, smuggling could be tolerated because it was on a very small scale and was only confined to articles of daily household use. The unscrupulous businessman at a stage was tempted to make profit out of it. He availed himself of the services of those who could risk their lives in crossing to the other side, by stages, from the exchange of cloth and other items of minor importance, the racket developed into the smuggling of gold from across the border in exchange for the currency from this side. This illicit trade assumed great dimensions in 1956, when on account of administrative laxity on the other side of the border, their currency started depreciating in value and our currency started appreciating. Unscrupulous elements on both sides started exploiting this difference in value, and the foreign gold, which was being smuggled into Pakistan, started being smuggled into India in exchange for our currency, which was held at a premium in the international money market and was being smuggled out of India. There was no doubt that smuggling was going on, but, in 1957, political parties started making capital out of it. In June 1957, a regular campaign was started against smuggling and smugglers.

The District is notorious for illicit distillation and for the smuggling of opium from across the border. Special campaigns are launched by the District police at short intervals to curb the activities of distillers, bootleggers and the moonshiners.

The inhabitants of the District are also very fond of keeping arms and, sometimes, even undesirable elements succeed in getting licences. Hunger for illicit arms is also quite common in the District. The District Police recovers illicit weapons, and the frequent screening of licences also helps to keep the law and order situation under control.

The work of the police has been rendered further difficult as a result of certain political changes and the abolition of non-official agencies, such as honorary magistrates, *zaildars* and *sufaidposhs*. They in the previous regime, were strong pillars of administration and the abolition of these agencies deprived the police administration of an important support in its work in the rural areas. With the abolition of *zaildars* and *sufaidposhs*, the morale of the lambardars and chowkidars also has gone very low and they no longer enjoy either the old status or the confidence of their co-villagers. Consequent upon the establishment of the *Panchayat Raj* in the Punjab, the sarpanches and panches are expected to play their full part in the day-to-day work of the administration and in the maintenance of law and order.

An idea regarding the trend of various crimes etc. in the District during 1974 to 1980 may be had from the following table :

Number of reported cases relating to various crimes in the Firozpur District, during 1974—80

Head of crime	Year							
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	
1. All crimes (classes I to VI)	..	906	980	981	1,034	952	752	835
1 Murders	..	63	61	47	62	59	47	64
2 Dacoity	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Robberies	..	3	2	4	3	1	—	4
5 Burglaries	..	105	110	116	145	117	87	73
6 Riots	..	—	1	3	5	2	1	—
7 Thefts	..	145	185	141	158	153	107	132
8 Cattle-lifting	..	11	9	10	7	—	4	5
9 Traffic in women	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheating	..	20	23	21	30	27	17	27
11 Offences under local and special law	..	4,338	4,246	4,348	4,719	5,205	5,804	6,571
12 Motor-vehicle accidents	52	59	48	45	59	73	63	

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Firozpur)

The notable categories of crimes are described below:

Murder.—Murder, a dreadful crime, is the brutal way of quenching one's thirst for one's enemy's blood. Personal enmities, blood feuds, disputes over land and water and sex relations mainly account for the

commission of this crime. There are no set motives or circumstances, under the influence of which the criminals resort to this type of crime. It varies with individuals, their education and other environments. Timely preventive action, at times, acts as a useful and healthy safeguard against this crime. Mostly, this crime results from sudden disputes, domestic troubles and sex relations. In such cases, any kind of vigilance of preventive action will not have any deterrent effect. Uneducated people attach no value to human life and they chop off the heads of one another like fodder at the slightest provocation under the lust for revenge. To satisfy the human instinct of blood for blood, the aggrieved party resorts to direct action and the murders multiply. Once the game is started, its chain of revengeful actions often continues for decades, despite strict surveillance by the local police. The rural areas of the Firozpur District are predominantly inhabited by Rai Sikhs, Bishnois and Jat Sikhs who have no regard for public justice. They, by tradition, get excited over trifling matters and resort to this heinous crime at the slightest provocation. The fact that Firozpur is a border district provides these criminals with an easy chance to dispose of the corpses and also offer them a good chance of escape from the clutches of law.

Dacoity.—When five or more persons conjointly commit or attempt to commit a robbery, or when all the persons conjointly committing or attempting to commit a robbery, and the persons present and aiding such commission or attempt, are five or more, every person so committing, attempting or aiding, is said to commit dacoity. So a dacoity is a robbery committed by five or more persons. It is a more serious offence than robbery because of the terror caused by the presence of a number of offenders. The preparation to commit dacoity is also an offence. Vigorous patrolling at dusk by the anti-dacoity staff in the affected areas and the cancellation of arms licences of undesirable persons have proved to be greatly effective in bringing the crime under this head to normal.

Robbery.—Extensive patrolling at dusk and frequent *naka bandis* in the affected areas and the grant of arms to the public have brought the crime under this head under control.

Burglary.—There was much fluctuation in the incidence of burglary in the District during 1974—80. The proportion of untraced burglary cases is no doubt high, but there are certain factors which prove detrimental to the successful investigation of these cases. It is a common experience in the rural areas and even in cities that when a burglar takes place, the people from the neighbourhood gather on the spot aimlessly as if a *tamasha* (a game) is being held there. In their anxiety to show lip sympathy to the

victims, they obliterate all the possible clues which the culprits may have left at the place of the crime. In some cases, the complainants lay suspicions on innocent persons on account of their personal enmity or disputes. Vigorous efforts are made to bring the situation under control. Patrolling by the police at dusk, the enforcement of preventive actions under sections 109/110 Cr. P.C., *thikri pehra*, the rounding up of untraced bad characters and their thorough interrogation, intelligent investigation and successful prosecutions have kept the incidence of burglary in the District under control.

Rioting.—Riot is the use of force for violence by an unlawful assembly of five or more persons or by any member thereof in the prosecution of the common object of that assembly. Personal rivalries and disputes over property and women are the main causes of riots, generally occurring in rural areas. A momentary submission to impulse at times takes such a violent turn that even preventive action has no deterrent effect. The lapse of time cool down passions, after which parties patch up their differences. With the result that conviction under this head is poor.

Theft.—Whoever, intending to take dishonestly any movable property out of the possession of any person without that person's consent and taking it away, is said to commit theft. There was fluctuation in the incidence of theft in the District during 1974 to 1980. The incidence of theft ranged between 322 (in 1960) and 332 (in 1970). Thefts in rural areas of the District are few because, firstly, the village *abadis* are small and the inhabitants know each other and, secondly, the rural population is generally well off. The patrolling at dusk and systematic *naka bandis* on the strategic points are mainly responsible for keeping this crime under effective control.

Cattle-lifting.—The incidence of crime under cattle-lifting predominates in the rural areas, when people generally keep their animals in their fields in the rainy season. The villagers generally remain busy in agricultural operations and do not pay proper attention to keep watch over their animals. In daytime, the cattle generally graze in the jungle and the menials, who are deputed to graze them do not take much interest in looking after them because they are paid low wages. The cattle often go astray and cross to the Pakistan territory. Moreover, in the rural areas, it is quite convenient for a cattle thief to drive away the stolen cattle at night without any fear of detection.

Traffic in Women.—Although a majority of the cases falling under this head come under the definition of kidnapping or abduction are, in fact, elopements climaxed by uninhibited love affairs resulting in the lovers' flight.

Cheating.—Simple-minded people are cheated by the lure of getting their money doubled or by the false promises of enabling them to buy landed property. The changing of brass into gold, obtaining of fertilizers by forging the signatures of others, etc. are the methods adopted by the cheat. So long as the people do not pull themselves out of the materialistic concept of life, this offence is not expected to vanish altogether because cheats have developed the tendency to become rich by deceiving simple-minded persons.

Offences under Local and Special Laws.—The crime under this head comprises cases of public nuisance and those under the Indian Arms Act, 1878; the Punjab Excise Act, 1914; the Opium Act, 1878; the Public Gambling Act, 1867; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955; the Indian Railways Act, 1890 and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947.

Incidence of Motor Vehicle Accidents.—With the rapid growth of population, there is much congestion on the roads and it has resulted in the increase in the number of accidents.

Road Traffic.—Besides the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, sections 279, 337, 338 and 304-A of the Indian Penal Code, the Punjab Municipal Act 1911, and the Municipal Bye-laws, the Stage Carriages Act XVI of 1861, the Police Act, 1888, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, XI of 1890, the Punjab Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1925, the Hackney Carriage Act, 1879, regulate the road traffic.

The prosecutions launched in the District under the various Acts during 1974 to 1980 are given in the following statement :

Prosecutions launched under various Acts in the Firozpur District during 1974—80

Name of the Act		Year						
		1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1 Indian Penal Code	..	1,897	1,740	1,905	2,095	2,135	1,592	1,616
2 Municipal Act and Municipal Bye-laws		—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 State Carriage Act	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 Police Act	..	140	155	—	37	41	76	45
5 Prevention of Cruelty to animal Act	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
6 Punjab Motor Vehicles Taxation Act	..	4,042	6,649	3,758	2,202	935	1,636	3,268
7 Hackney Carriage Act	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(Source: Senior Superintendent of Police, Firozpur)

(b) History and Organization of Police**History of Police**

The organization of the Police force in the Punjab in the modern sense of the term started with the advent of the British in this part of the country. The police administration was organized with the appointment of a separate officer at the district level, viz. the Superintendent of Police. The Police system was reorganized from time to time in accordance with the recommendations of the Police Commission of 1861, the Second Police Commission of 1902, the Punjab Provincial Committee of 1925 (which submitted its report in 1926), the Punjab Police Commission of 1961, etc.

After Independence, the European Officers in the police service left India. They constituted a very large proportion of the superior services and their places had to be filled up by the promotions from the ranks. Moreover, the Muslims who constituted about two-thirds of the police strength in the united Punjab migrated to the Punjab (Pakistan). The depleted police force had thus, to perform the gigantic task of combating the unprecedented law-and-order problems which attended the partition of the country and the mass migration of the members of the communities from each side of the border. Immediate steps were, however, taken to make up the serious deficiency in the police force.

In the context of the geographical location of the Firozpur District on the Indo-Pakistan border, its strategic importance from the police point of view cannot be over emphasized. The utmost and unrelented police vigilance is required to be maintained for action against spies, agents, saboteurs and smugglers from across the international border.

Organization of Police

For the purpose of police administration, the Firozpur District falls under the charge of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Firozpur Range, Firozpur. The District Police is controlled by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Firozpur, who is assisted by one superintendent of police, 6 deputy superintendents of police, 10 inspectors, 40 sub-inspectors, 108 assistant sub-inspectors, 327 head constables and 1,582 constables. Besides, the village watchmen and chowkidars are in position in all such villages as do not have any municipal or notified area committees. The *thikri pehra*, on voluntary basis, is also carried out in the rural areas of the District. This arrangement is of immense help in controlling the crime against persons and property.

The District has always been notorious for the high incidence of crime, both against persons and property. The criminal administration of the District is split up into various police-stations, each under the charge of an officer known as the station house officer, who is ordinarily of the rank of a sub-inspector.

The present strength of the police in the District is given in the following statement :

Police Strength in the Firozpur District as on 31 March 1981

	Senior Superintendents of Police	Superintendents of Police	Deputy Superintendents of Police	Inspectors	Sub-Inspectors	Assistant Sub-Inspectors	Head Constables	Constables
Civil Police								
Permanent ..	1	1	4	8	37	88	239	1,305
Temporary ..	—	—	2	2	—	18	73	149
Armed Police								
Permanent ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	63
Temporary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mounted Police								
Permanent ..	—	—	—	—	2	1	8	65
Temporary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prosecution Staff								
Permanent ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Temporary ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	1	1	6	10	40	108	327	1,582

(Source : Senior Superintendent of Police, Firozpur)

The number of police-stations and police posts in each tahsil subdivision, as on 31 March 1981, is given below :

Tahsil/ Subdivision	Number of villages	Police-stations	Police-posts/ outposts
Firozpur ..	470	1 City Firozpur 2 Sadar Firozpur 3 Cantonment Firozpur 4 Ghall Khurd 5 Mamdot 6 Guru Har Sahai	Railway Colony, Firozpur Canal Colony, Firozpur

Tahsil/ Subdivision	Number of villages	Police-stations	Police-posts/ outposts
Zira	.. 387	1 Zira 2 Dharmkot 3 Makhu 4 Mallanwala	City Zira City Dharmkot Canal Colony, Makhu
Fazilka	.. 315	1 City Fazilka 2 Sadar Fazilka 3 City Abohar 4 Sadar Abohar 5 Khuan Sarwar 6 Jalalabad	City Jalalabad Arniwala

Civil Police.—Civil police is used for duty at the police-stations. There are 16 police-stations and 7 police-posts in the District. Each police-station is under the charge of a police officer, known as the station house officer, assisted by one or more assistant sub-inspectors, a head constable, a *moharrir* and a number of constables, allocated to it. It is the duty of the station house officer to maintain peace in his circle as well as to investigate offences occurring within his jurisdiction.

Punjab Armed Police.—This force became permanent with effect from 23 November 1948, and was named the 'Provincial Armed Police'. It is kept in the Reserve Police Lines and is posted for duty whenever and wherever any contingency arises. It performs the escort duty for bringing prisoners from the jail to the courts and taking them back. Armed policemen are also used as guards at the government treasuries. They are also deputed for patrolling and combating dacoits. In the District, this force consists of 1 sub-inspector, 1 assistant sub-inspector, 7 head constables and 63 constables.

Mounted Police.—This force is kept in the Reserve Police Lines and at different police-stations. It is used to maintain law and order, to patrol roads, to round up dangerous gangs and to disperse crowds. Its training

is, in such circumstances, similar to that of the armed police. Under this force, there are 2 subinspectors, 1 assistant sub-inspector, 8 head constables and 65 constables in the District.

Vigilance Police.--One Superintendent of Police is in charge of a unit of the Vigilance Police, is posted at the District headquarters. He is assisted by 1 deputy superintendent of police, 2 inspectors, 2 sub-inspectors, 1 assistant sub-inspector, 1 head constable and 14 constables. The main function of the vigilance staff is to detect corruption by either laying traps against corrupt officers and officials or making enquiries into the complaints entrusted to them.

Railway Police.--The railway police is not allotted to any particular district, but is a part of a separate State organization, working under the Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police, Punjab, with headquarters at Patiala. The circles of the Railway Police are formed according to the sections of railway lines on which they control crime committed in railway trains and within the railway premises.

The headquarters of the Government Railway Police, through which the crime on stations in the Firozpur District is controlled, are situated at the Firozpur Cantonment. The staff posted in the District comprises 1 sub-inspector, 1 assistant sub-inspector, 5 head constables and 24 constables.

Excise Police Staff.--The staff strength of the Excise Police in the District consists of 2 sub-inspectors, 10 head constables and 46 constables. The whole Excise Police staff is on deputation from the main strength of the Police Department.

Village Police.--The institution of chowkidari is very old. Even in the remote past, every village had one such official, who received a share from each cultivator's produce as his remuneration. The chowkidari formed the lowest rung of the police organization, as he supplied information of offences committed in the village to the police.

This system has now gone weak because the people are generally averse to *thikri pehra* and have an impression that it is the responsibility of the police alone for maintaining law and order. Thus there is very little co-operation from the people in village-patrolling. The Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, has, however, authorized the *panchayats* to raise their own voluntary forces for the maintenance of law and order within their jurisdiction.

Trackers.—The class of professional trackers, known as *khoji* still continues to exist in the Firozpur District and contributes to the society and administration the utility of their art of establishing the identity of the criminals from footprints. These trackers track the hoof marks of stray and stolen cattle and also track criminals belonging to their neighbouring villages and of a neighbouring district by following the trail of prints left behind by them. When a theft takes place, the trackers are summoned either by the sufferer or by the police or any other administrative unit to help them to locate the guilty.

The method of comparison of footprints is mostly based on Locard's principle, i.e. when two things come into contact, they are bound to leave their impact on each other and exchange certain distinguished characteristics. In this case, certain principal features of the parts of the foot and gait, i.e. the step length, the walking line, the direction line, the angle of steps, the shape, breadth, foot line, etc. are taken into account for judging whether the person or animal is lame, was carrying weight or not, etc. and thus, for eventually establishing the identity of the criminals beyond doubt.

Most of the trackers come from Bauria, Rai Sikh, Kamboj, Jat Sikh and Jhiwar communities of the Punjab. Their efforts are rewarded by the Police Department and by the complainants. The trackers also get due recognition under the Punjab Laws Act of 1872, under which, *vide section 41*, trackers, in carrying on tracks, may call for assistance from any headman or watchmen of the village, to the immediate vicinity of which is punished under section 42 of the Act if he refuses to give such assistance forthwith.

Punjab Home Guards

The Punjab Home Guards Act was passed in 1948. It was first known as the Home Defence, Punjab. Later on, it was rechristened as the Punjab Voluntary Corps. Now it is called the Punjab Home Guards.

Every State and Union Territory has its own organised civil defence corps. They are ready to take on any thing from first aid and fire-fighting to supervising rescue operations and standing in, during trouble to maintain communications. The training period of the Home Guards is 100 hours, stretched over holidays and Sundays and after working hours. They are drilled in fire-fighting, life-saving techniques, first aid, ambulance-driving, self-defence and traffic control. Even in times of peace, the Home Guards are not forgotten. During the natural calamities, such as floods or epidemics, it is the Home Guards, who man the relief operations.

The Punjab Home Guards was organised in the District in 1961. The District Commander, Punjab Home Guards, Firozpur, is the head of this organisation at the District level to control the urban and rural establishments, composed of 8 urban companies and 10 rural companies, consisting of 110 *jawans* in every company. The urban boys are functioning in the following urban towns of the District :

- 1 Firozpur City
- 2 Firozpur Cantonment
- 3 Fazilka
- 4 Abohar

The rural companies are organised in the development blocks of the District.

The District Commander is assisted by 1 deputy commander, 5 company commanders, 10 platoon commanders, 1 havildar clerk, 6 havildar instructors, besides the other allied class III/IV staff.

(c) Jails and Lock-ups

Jails in India in the comparatively modern sense may be said to be a creation of the nineteenth century. Long before that, the usual modes of punishment were fines, confiscation of property, branding, mutilation, banishment, beheading, immuring in dungeons, or planning death by using wild animals or snakes. Lord Macaulay in 1835 drew the attention of the Directors of the East India Company to the terrible conditions prevailing in the Indian Jails. A committee was appointed, and its report came out in 1838. Pursuant to its recommendations, the first Inspector-General of Prisons was appointed in Uttar Pradesh in 1844 and the first Central Prison came into existence in Agra in 1846. The great landmark in the prison administration is the sixth All-India Jail Committee of 1919-20.

The prison administration in India is a State subject. Rules and regulations vary from one part of the country to another. The present political leaders had been inside jails on several occasions during the British Rule in India. They have seen the sordid side of prison life and experienced its hardships and humiliation. After independence, tremendous changes have been affected in the working of the jails and the States seem to vie with one another in introducing jail reforms.

There is a Central Jail at Firozpur and a Sub-jail at Fazilka. Besides, there is a lock-up attached to each police station, and it is controlled by the Police Department.

Central Jail, Firozpur.—The Central Jail is situated on the Mall Road near the Punjab Roadways Bus Stand, Firozpur City. It is under the charge of the Superintendent Jail, who is assisted by one deputy superintendent (Jail), one deputy superintendent (factory), 7 assistant superintendents, 3 welfare officers, 2 medical officers, 1 head clerk, assisted by 10 clerks, 1 accountant, 2 storekeepers, 2 dispensers, 1 teacher, 12 head warders, 98 warders, 1 matron, besides other technical and class IV staff.

The total admissions during the year and the average daily population in the Central Jail, Firozpur during 1975 to 1980 are given in the following table :

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
1 Total admissions during the year ..	5,712	6,880	5,248	8,073	7,434	6,383
2 Average daily population ..	1,132.61	1,312.77	1,159.00	1,080.00	963.53	879.31

(Source : Superintendent, Central Jail, Firozpur)

The maximum daily population of the prisoners in the Central Jail, Firozpur, during 1980 was 1,225.

The number of convicted prisoners, released on different grounds, during 1975 to 1980 is given in the following table :

Year	Number of prisoners released
1975	876
1976	864
1977	712
1978	724
1979	812
1980	520

(Source : Superintendent, Central Jail, Firozpur)

Education and Recreational and Medical Facilities

There are two teachers to teach the prisoners inside the jail. One teacher is paid by the Government and the other is paid by the District Crime Prevention Society, Firozpur. Illiterate prisoners are given lessons in the jail to enable them to write their names, send letters home and read those received by them. They are occasionally examined by the Block Education Officer and are issued literacy certificates. Lectures on moral, social and religious subjects are also arranged for the prisoners. There is a library in the jail and books are issued to them, so that they may read them in their spare time. The District Public Relations Officer, Firozpur supplies from time to time instructional and informative pamphlets and other material for the benefit of the prisoners.

The jail has a 16-mm projector and the prisoners are shown full-length pictures and news-reels every month. The jail has also a dramatic club. After one or two months, dramas are staged. Cinema shows are also arranged by the District Public Relations Officer, Firozpur. There is also provision for games, such as *kabaddi* and volley-ball for the prisoners. Matches are held off and on in the jail. The Welfare Officer of the jail has been entrusted with the job of arranging cultural and recreational programmes for the prisoners inside the jail.

There are two whole-time medical officers and two dispensers in the jail to look after the health of the prisoners. The prisoners, suffering from minor ailments, are treated as outdoor patients. Cases of serious nature are sent to the Civil Hospital for major surgical operations, when necessary. The population of the prison is regularly vaccinated against small-pox.

Canteen

A canteen was started in the jail in 1961 on co-operative basis, with the funds subscribed by the prisoners. It meets the daily needs of the prisoners, such as sugar, *biris*, biscuits and articles of toilet. Articles are purchased directly from the dealers and are issued to the prisoners on a nominal profit. The prisoners are issued coupons of the value of the amount they deposit with the jail authorities and they can get their daily requirements from the canteen at fixed hours. This system is very useful to the prisoners and it has done away with the profit which formerly went to the contractor.

Panchayat System

In order to foster a sense of responsibility among the prisoners and give them scope for initiative, the *panchayat* system has been introduced.

into the Central Jail. The prisoners elect through votes the members of the *panchayat* and the members of the *panchayat* elect their sarpanch. The members inspect food articles, draw ration from the stores and supervise its cooking. They also manage the sanitation of the jail. Besides, they bring the difficulties and grievances of the prisoners to the notice of jail authorities. This system has created a sense of responsibility and trust among the prisoners, and has been of great value in maintaining discipline.

Jail Industries

The industries carried on in the Central Jail, Firozpur, are carpentry, the making of *nivar*, tape, *ban*, hemp, bamboo *chicks*, textiles, durries, druggets, oil, oil-cakes, tags and laces training in poultry, farming and tailoring. The average number of prisoners employed in these industries, total production and the gross profit during 1974 to 1980 are given in the following table :

Year	Daily average of prisoners working in the factory	Production (Rs)	Gross Profit (Rs)
1974	343.98	5,52,924	55,292
1975	381.57	6,23,849	62,385
1976	509.39	5,35,665	53,567
1977	512.92	6,39,691	63,969
1978	349.93	6,15,324	61,532
1979	261.96	6,11,536	61,153
1980	237.13	10,62,825	1,06,222

(Source : Superintendent, Central Jail, Firozpur)

Official and Non-Official Visitors

The occasional visits by the officials and non-officials to the jail are very beneficial to the jail administration and also to the prisoners. They see the prisoners and listen to their request and complaints. They

also see whether all the rules and regulations are being observed by the jail authorities. This is a useful institution as it provides the prisoners with opportunities to approach the public to let them know what is happening behind the walls of the jails.

Sub-Jail, Fazilka.—Formerly, a judicial lock-up, managed by the Police Department, was converted into a sub-jail with effect from 12 December 1957. Situated on the Firozpur-Fazilka road, near the local courts, it is under the control of the Subdivisional Magistrate, who is its part-time Superintendent. He is assisted by the supervisory staff comprising an assistant superintendent, a head warder and 10 warders.

The total admissions to the sub-jail during 1976 to 1980 were 7,824. The average daily population was 47.33 and the maximum population on any one day was 172 during 1980. The number of convicted prisoners, released on different rounds during 1976 to 1980 was 915.

A radio-set has been provided in the sub-jail for the re-creation of the prisoners. One daily newspaper is also provided for the prisoners. The prisoners, who need medical treatment, are sent to the Civil Hospital.

District Crime Prevention Society, Firozpur.—Formed in 1939, the District Crime Prevention Society, Firozpur, is doing commendable work for the welfare of the prisoners at the Central Jail, Firozpur. The prisoners are provided with reading and writing materials, such as copy-books, pencils, slates, and primers, out of the society's funds. Cultural and recreational programmes are arranged for the prisoners inside the jail. A part-time teacher has also been provided by the Society for the prisoners.

District Probation Officer, Firozpur.—The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, came into force in the Firozpur District in 1967, when a district probation officer was posted here. The District Probation Officer is under the control of the Chief Probation Officer, Chandigarh, who is under the overall administrative control of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, was passed as a reformatory measure for Judicial offenders (below 21 years) and for the first offenders, irrespective of their ages. To save such offenders from confinement within the walls of the jail, the Act provides that such offenders be released on bail after entering into a bond with one surety for an amount considered sufficient and for a period up to three years, as desired by the court. The Act, however, does not cover such offenders who have committed offences for which they can be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

Whenever a juvenile or first offender is brought before the court with some charge for which the benefit of probation under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958, can be given to the offenders and, as soon as the *challan* is put up by the police, the court asks for pre-sentence report from the District Probation Officer. In return, the District Probation Officer makes direct enquiries without discrimination regarding the offender's character and antecedents, his social and environmental conditions, the financial and other circumstances of his family, the circumstances in which the alleged offence was committed and any other fact which the court has directed to inquire. Keeping in view the gravity of the crime and the character of the offender, he is released on probation with or without supervision. Those who are released with the condition to be kept under supervision are placed under the supervision of the District Probation Officer. The latter, in return, performs multifarious duties as a friend, philosopher and guide to all the probationers kept under his supervision. He looks into their personal problems and tries to solve them. He chalks out proper programmes and tries to improve the behaviour, attitude towards society, habits, character and morals of the probationers, so that they do not revert to crime. He also holds meetings with the probationers in his office and at their residences in order to watch the progress made by them.

The Probation Officer makes enquiries about the character and behaviour of the probationers from respectable persons of the village, such as the *sarpanch*, members of the *panchayats*, and *lambardars*.

The following table shows the number of prisoners released on probation on various grounds during 1973-74 to 1979-80 :

Year	Under supervision	Without supervision	Social investigation reports
1973-74	89	215	2
1974-75	96	171	1
1975-76	34	853	2
1976-77	75	504	4
1977-78	80	529	6
1978-79	59	426	2
1979-80	101	760	6

(Source : District Probation Officer, Firozpur)

(d) Organization of Civil and Criminal Courts

Before the separation of the executive from the judiciary, the District Magistrate, in his capacity as head of the District criminal administration, was overall in charge of the magistrates and the police. Immediately under him there was also an additional district magistrate who normally exercised Section 30 powers. Besides, there was one or more magistrates 1st class who disposed of the entire criminal work.

For the disposal of the civil work, there was a separate senior subordinate judge and a number of subordinate judges who were under the administrative control of the District and Sessions Judge, Firozpur.

Since the separation of the executive from the judiciary in the State from 2 October 1964, the administration of both civil and criminal justice in the District is controlled by the District and Sessions Judge, Firozpur. The organization of the judiciary consists of the District and Sessions Judge and two additional district and sessions judges at the District headquarters. Under the superintendence of the District and Sessions Judge, there are two administrative posts of a chief judicial magistrate and a senior subordinate judge, who work on the criminal and the civil side respectively, although both of them exercise civil and criminal powers. There are four judicial officers at the District headquarters and they deal with civil and criminal cases entrusted to them by the Senior Subordinate Judge and the Chief Judicial Magistrate respectively. Similarly, at the tahsil level, there are judicial officers who dispose of civil and criminal cases under the supervision and control of the District and Sessions Judge. The civil cases are directly instituted in the courts at the tahsil headquarters, whereas with respect to criminal cases, separate police stations are allotted to different judicial officers who deal with the cases of those police-stations.

Civil Justice.—On the civil side, the administration of Justice in the District is handled by the District and Sessions Judge, Firozpur, who is assisted by 2 additional district judges, 1 senior subordinate judge and 11 sub-judges-cum-judicial magistrates, (4 posted at Firozpur, 4 at Fazilka, 3 at Zira).

The civil courts try all sorts of cases of civil nature up to the powers with which each subordinate judge and senior subordinate judge has been invested. The Senior Subordinate Judge of the District and the subordinate judges are, sometimes, invested with additional magisterial powers temporarily.

Additional District Judge, Firozpur

On the civil side, the Additional District and Sessions Judge is known as the Additional District Judge. He hears appeal against the judgements and decrees of subordinate judges of all classes and hears cases under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, and Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Senior Subordinate Judge, Firozpur

The Senior Subordinate Judge has been invested with the powers of unlimited jurisdiction of civil nature including rent cases, succession certificates, insolvency cases, guardian cases and appellate work up to a certain limit suits under the torts and suits under the Indian Contract Act, 1882.

Sub-Judges First Class

All the sub-judges are subordinate judges. They are invested with the powers of unlimited jurisdiction of civil nature in their areas, including rent cases, succession certificates and others.

The following statement shows the number of cases tried by civil courts in the District from 1976 to 1980 :

Year	Pending from the previous year	Instituted during the year	Total for disposal	Disposed of during the year	Balance at the close o the year
1976	2,881	2,726	5,607	2,812	2,795
1977	2,795	2,839	5,634	3,072	2,562
1978	2,562	3,042	5,604	2,892	2,712
1979	2,712	3,036	5,748	3,273	2,475
1980	2,475	3,298	5,773	3,002	2,771

(Source : Senior Subordinate Judge, Firozpur)

Criminal Justice.—On the criminal side, the administration of justice in the District is handled by the District & Sessions Judge, Firozpur, who is assisted by 2 additional district and sessions judges and 11 chief judicial magistrates (4 posted at Firozpur, 4 at Fazilka and 3 at Zira).

With the separation of the executive from the judiciary in the State from 2 October 1964, the powers of the District Magistrate, on the criminal side, are vested in the Chief Judicial Magistrate, who is under the control of the District and Sessions Judge.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate and the judicial magistrates deal with all types of cases relating to crime, except security cases. He is vested with the powers of a judicial magistrate, 1st class, i.e., with powers to try juvenile offenders, to require delivery of letters, telegrams, etc., to issue search warrants for documents in the custody of postal or telegraph authorities, to release persons imprisoned for failing to give security under Section 106, to order police investigation into a cognizable offence, to entertain a case without complaints, to transfer cases to a subordinate magistrate, to report a case to High Court, etc.

All judicial magistrates try cases under the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 ; the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 ; and other special Acts relating to their police stations. They have the powers to direct warrants to land-holders, to issue search warrants for the discovery of persons wrongfully confined, record statements and confessions during police investigation, to recover penalty on forfeited bonds, to order the released convicts to notify the residences, etc. All criminals apprehended by the police are produced before the judicial magistrate whose jurisdiction the criminals may have been apprehended or within whose jurisdiction the crime may have been committed.

After investigation, the police put the *challans* in the courts of judicial magistrates who also act as *ilaka* magistrates and watch the investigation of criminal cases. The judicial magistrates have also been vested with the powers of sub-judges with varying jurisdiction.

With the separation of the executive from the judiciary, the cases of security for keeping peace and security for good behaviour, under the Criminal Procedure Code, are tried by the subdivisional magistrates, Firozpur, Zira and Fazilka, relating to their respective subdivisions. They are also called upon to perform executive functions, in addition to the trial of above types of cases.

The following statement shows the number of criminal cases decided by the criminal courts in the District during 1973 to 1980 :

Year	Cases decided
1973	16,770
1974	12,669
1975	14,152
1976	10,910

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases decided</i>
1977	10,713
1978	13,596
1979	21,384
1980	20,740

(Source : Chief Judicial Magistrate, Firozpur)

Gram/Panchayat Courts

Under the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, certain civil, criminal and revenue powers are vested in the *panchayats*. Petty cases of various categories are disposed of by the bodies. This system has been put into use to decentralize authority to strengthen the roots of democracy and lessen the burden of courts. The entrusting of judicial powers to the *panchayats* has enhanced their prestige and added to their status. They are competent to grant bail to a person against a surety of not exceeding Rs 500.

The criminal jurisdiction of a gram panchayat is confined to the trial of offences specified in Schedule I-A and I-B of the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. The *panchayats* are also competent to take cognizance *suo moto* of cases falling under Sections 160, 228, 277, 289, 290, 294 and 510 of the Indian Penal Code and under Sections 3 and 4 of the Funjab Juvenile Smoking Act, 1918 (or any other Act for the time being in force).

With regard to the civil and revenue judicial functions, the *panchayats* are competent to try suits for the recovery of movable property or the value of such property ; suits for money or goods due on contracts or price thereof ; suits for compensation for wrongfully taking or damaging movable property ; and suits mentioned in clauses (j), (k), (l) and (n) of Sub-section (3) of Section 77 of the Punjab Tenancy Act, 1887 (or any other Act for the time being in force). The *panchayat*, when trying such suits, is deemed to be a civil or a criminal or a revenue court, as the the case may be.

The following statement shows the judicial work done by the *panchayats* in the District during 1973-74 to 1979-80 :

**Judicial work done by panchayats in the Firozpur District from
1973-74 to 1979-80**

Revenue cases	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
1 Cases pending at the beginning of the year	186	180	122	66	68	44	16
2 Cases instituted ..	88	52	40	20	11	24	14
3 Cases received by transfer ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
4 Cases transferred from panchayats and cases returned for presentation to courts and panchayats ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 Cases decided ..	94	112	96	18	35	52	13
(a) Cases dismissed ..	21	11	21	7	28	26	—
(b) Cases compounded	59	86	68	5	—	—	10
(c) Cases decreed ..	14	15	7	6	7	16	3
6 Cases pending at the end of the year ..	180	122	66	68	44	16	17
Criminal Cases							
1 Cases pending at the beginning of the year ..	183	154	118	118	55	38	34
2 Cases instituted ..	197	97	85	37	18	19	60
3 Cases received by transfer ..	7	2	5	—	2	—	—
4 Cases transferred from panchayats for presentation to courts and panchayats ..	2	2	—	—	—	1	—
5 Cases decided ..	231	133	90	100	37	22	77
(a) Cases dismissed ..	37	31	18	3	12	4	—
(b) Cases compounded	181	92	62	76	24	14	68
(c) Cases convicted ..	13	10	10	21	1	4	9
6 Cases pending at the end of the year ..	154	118	118	55	38	34	17

(Source : Director of Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab)

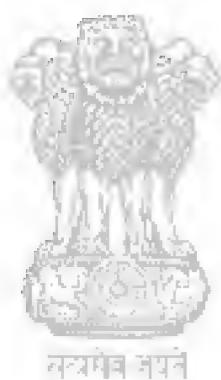
(e) Bar Associations

In order to promote and maintain a higher standard of professional conduct and to encourage and promote the study of scientific law, bar associations have been formed at all the district and at subdivisional headquarters in the State. These associations look after the interests of their

members and render a useful service to the cause of the legal profession. The bar associations endeavour to maintain the dignity of the profession, besides promoting the best possible relations between the Bench and the Bar. These also help the courts in the administration of justice and promote a sense of respect for law and order in the public mind.

The Bar Association, Firozpur, is one of the oldest associations in the State and is said to have been formed in 1865. Its present strength is 142. Its members took a prominent share in the political, social and cultural life of the District and many of them have occupied high judicial positions.

The Bar Association, Zira, was formed in 1930 and its present strength is 42. The Bar Association, Fazilka, was formed about the year 1930 and its present strength is 119.



CHAPTER XIII

OTHER DEPARTMENTS

In recent times, the role of public administration has been increasingly expanding to meet the exigencies of planning for a welfare State. Before Independence, Revenue, Judiciary and Police were the only important departments. The activities now undertaken by the Punjab Government are so diverse that a number of departments, which did not exist or play any significant part in the past, have come up during the post-Independence period to give effect to, and keep pace with, the growing tempo of development work generated by the various nation-building activities implemented under each successive Five-Year Plan.

The administrative set-up, functions and activities of the departments, which have not been mentioned elsewhere in the *Gazetteer*, are dealt with in the following account :

(a) Public Works Department

The activities of this Department may be mainly divided into drainage, public health, the construction of buildings and roads, and irrigation. The jurisdiction of the circles or divisions of the Department is not necessarily confined to one district. It may extend to more than one district. However, the circles or divisions, having jurisdiction over the Firozpur District, are described below :

(i) Superintending Engineer, Drainage Construction Circle, Firozpur

Opened on 13 November 1967, the Drainage Construction Circle, Firozpur has under it three divisions, viz. the Mechanical Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur ; the Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur ; and the Golewala Drainage Division, Firozpur, each under an executive engineer. Its jurisdiction also extends to the Ludhiana District and portions of the Bathinda and Faridkot districts.

The Superintending Engineer is assisted by 1 circle head draftsman, 2 divisional head draftsmen, 2 draftsmen, 1 circle superintendent, 1 superintendent grade IV, besides other ministerial class III and allied class IV staff.

The Circle is entrusted with the construction and maintenance of surface water drains, seepage drains and flood protection bunds.

Executive Engineer, Mechanical Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur.—The Division was opened on 8 December 1967. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 24 sectional officers, 1 divisional accountant, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 head draftsman and 1 draftsman, besides other ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

The main functions of the Division are to do all the mechanical jobs, including the work to be done by earth-moving machinery, dewatering for masonry works, etc. in the entire area under the jurisdiction of the Drainage Construction Circle, Firozpur.

Executive Engineer, Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur.—Opened on 5 April 1971, the Drainage Construction Division, Firozpur, is entrusted with the construction of drainage. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 24 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 accountant, 1 head draftsman, 2 draftsmen, besides other ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Golewala Drainage Division, Firozpur.—Established in 1963, this Division is entrusted with the work of anti-waterlogging and flood control to save the standing crops and village *abadis* from devastation. Besides, the schemes for linking local depressions of villages and towns with the main drains are being formulated to give relief to the inhabitants of the District from waterlogging menace and floods.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 21 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 head draftsman, 1 divisional accountant, besides other ministerial/technical class III and miscellaneous class IV staff.

(ii) **Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Public Health Division, Firozpur**

Started in 1956, the Division is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Public Health Circle (North), Jalandhar City. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 1 head draftsman, 2 draftsmen, 17 sectional officers, 2 tracers, besides other ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

The main functions of the Division are to execute and maintain the work of water-supply schemes and drainage schemes, and sanitary installation works in the buildings of the State Government. Besides, it has been entrusted with the work of brick-pitching and drainage of model villages. The work of public-health amenities on behalf of the Central Government, the M.E.S. authorities and other departments is also executed and maintained as deposit works.

Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Public Health Division, Abohar

Started in 1971, the Division is under the administrative control of the Superintending Engineer, Public Health (Rural Water Supply Scheme), Muktsar. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 1 head draftsman, 2 draftsmen, 16 sectional officers, 2 tracers, besides other ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

The main functions of the Division are to execute and maintain the work of the water-supply schemes in the villages.

(iii) Superintending Engineer, Firozpur Circle, P.W.D., Buildings and Roads, Firozpur

Started on 18 May 1968, this Circle has three divisions under it, viz., the P.W.D., Provincial Division, Firozpur; the Construction Division P.W.D., Buildings and Roads Firozpur and Construction Division P.W.D., Buildings and Roads, Fazilka, each under an executive engineer.

The Superintending Engineer is under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer P.W.D. B&R, Punjab, Patiala. He is assisted by 1 superintendent, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 circle head draftsman, 2 assistant draftsmen, 2 tracers, besides ministerial/technical class III and miscellaneous class IV staff.

The main functions of this circle are to exercise control over the construction and maintenance of buildings and roads under its jurisdiction.

Executive Engineer, Provincial Division P.W.D. B & R, Firozpur

Formed in about 1953, the Division is entrusted with the construction and maintenance of public buildings and roads in the District.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 sub-divisional officers, 13 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 divisional accountant, 3 accounts clerks, 1 divisional draftsman, 2 assistant draftsmen, and ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Construction Division, P.W.D., B&R, Firozpur

Started in September 1973, the Construction Division, P.W.D., B&R Firozpur, is entrusted with the construction of buildings and roads. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 15 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 divisional accountant, 1 head draftsman, 2 draftsmen, 2 tracers, besides ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Construction Division, P.W.D., B&R, Fazilka

Established in July, 1973, the Construction Division, P.W.D., B&R, Fazilka, is entrusted with the construction of buildings and roads. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 sub-divisional officers, 12 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 divisional accountant, 1 head draftsman, 2 draftsmen, 2 tracers, besides ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

(iv) Superintending Engineer, Firozpur Canal Circle, Firozpur

Opened in 1924, this Circle has four divisions under it, viz., the Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur ; the Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Firozpur ; the Executive Engineer, Abohar Division, Abohar, and the Rajasthan Feeder Division, Firozpur. The Superintending Engineer, Firozpur, is assisted by 4 executive engineers, 15 sub-divisional officers, 2 deputy collectors, 1 superintendent, 5 head clerks, 21 ziladars, 1 circle head draftsman, 5 divisional head draftsmen, 6 draftsmen, and 60 sectional officers, besides ministerial/technical class III and allied and miscellaneous class IV staff.

The main functions of the Circle are the maintenance and repairs of the Firozpur and Harike Headworks, the Eastern Canal System, the Firozpur Feeder System, the Sirhind Feeder, the Rajasthan Feeder and the Abohar Branch, and the preparation of the demand statement of *abiana*.

Executive Engineer, Eastern Division, Firozpur.—The Division was established in May 1946. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 accountant, 1 head draftsman, 1 tracer, besides ministerial/technical class III and class IV staff.

It is a Headworks-cum-Revenue Division. The Hussaniwala Head is under its jurisdiction and all the works connected with it are maintained by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Headworks Sub-Division. Besides, there are four subdivisions under its administrative control, two at Firozpur, one each at Jalalabad and Fazilka. Bunds for protection from floods in the area are also constructed by this Division.

Executive Engineer, Harike Division, Firozpur.—Started on 17 December 1948, the Harike Division has in its charge the Harike Headworks, the Sirhind Feeder and the Firozpur Feeder canals. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 16 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 3 ziladars, 1 accountant, 1 head draftsman, 1 draftsman, besides ministerial and technical class III and class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Abohar Division, Abohar.—The Abohar Division, Abohar, was opened on 1 April 1946. It looks after the maintenance of the running canals and assesses the water-rates with respect to the area irrigated by these canals which were previously part of the Sirhind Canal which takes off from the Rupnagar Headworks. Owing to the construction of the Rajasthan Feeder and the Sirhind Feeder, these canals are now fed from the Sirhind Feeder which takes off from the Harike Headworks.

The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 sub-divisional officers, 1 deputy collector, 11 ziladars, 13 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 head revenue clerk, 1 divisional accountant, 1 divisional head draftsman, 1 draftsman, besides ministerial and technical class III and class IV staff.

Executive Engineer, Rajasthan Feeder Division, Firozpur.—Established in 1964, the Rajasthan Feeder Division has in its charge the maintenance of the Rajasthan Feeder, which takes off from the Harike Headworks located in the Punjab area. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 4 sub-divisional officers, 16 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 accountant, 1 head draftsman, 1 draftsman, besides other ministerial and technical class III and class IV staff.

(v) **Superintending Engineer, Canal-Lining Circle, Firozpur.**—Started on 2 June 1980, this circle has two divisions under it in the Firozpur District, viz. the Executive Engineer, Canal-lining Division, Firozpur, and the Executive Engineer, Canal-Lining Division, Abohar. Its jurisdiction also extends to the Faridkot District.

The Superintendent Engineer is assisted by 1 circle head draftsman, 2 draftsmen, 1 tracer, 1 superintendent grade II, 1 superintendent grade IV, besides some other class III and allied class IV staff.

The main function of Circle is brick-lining of the channels.

Executive Engineer, Canal-Lining Division, Firozpur.—This Division was opened on 9 June 1980. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 sub-divisional officers, 12 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 divisional head draftsman, 1 draftsman, 1 assistant research officer, 3 research assistants, besides some other class III and class IV staff. The main function of the Division is the brick-lining of the channels.

Executive Engineer, Canal Lining Division, Abohar.—Opened on 12 July 1979, the Canal-Lining Division, Abohar, is entrusted with the work of brick-lining of the canals. The Executive Engineer is assisted by 3 sub-divisional officers, 12 sectional officers, 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 divisional head draftsman, 1 draftsman, besides some other class III and class IV staff.

(b) Public Relations Department

The Public Relations Department is represented at the district level by the District Public Relations Officer. This office was opened during the World War II under the name of 'District National Home Front' and its primary aim was to mobilize the masses for recruitment to the Army and to seek their general co-operation for war efforts. The work of maintaining communal harmony was also entrusted to it. After Independence,

this office was named District Publicity Office and was entrusted with the work of publicizing the policies and decisions of the popular government and that of motivating the people for active participation in the development schemes. The office got its present name of 'District Public Relations Office' on 1 February 1951.

The District Public Relations Officer, Firozpur, is assisted by 1 Assistant public relations officer, 2 tahsil publicity organizers (one each at Fazlka and Zira), 1 information centre assistant, 1 information centre attendant, 1 drama inspector, 1 drama attendant, 1 radio supervisor, 1 radio mechanic, 1 stage master, 1 harmonium master, 1 tabla master, 5 actors, and some other ministerial and technical class III and class IV staff. There is also the Additional District Public Relations Officer who posted at Fazilka.

The duties of the District Public Relations Officer are to publicize the policies and decisions of the government through press and mass media of dramas and cinemas, also including press coverage, the organization of public meetings and rural conferences, holding *kavi darbars* (poetical symposia), variety programmes and exhibitions. The District Public Relations Officer also received tourists from within the country and from outside. He is also the Secretary of the District Library Committee, which gives grants for the development of municipal libraries and for setting up reading-rooms in the rural areas.

The office also runs a Tourist Information Centre at the District Headquarters, the Centre is frequently visited by foreign tourists, entering India through the Hussainiwala Border. Under the Community Listening Scheme, it has installed 352 radio-sets and 39 television-sets in the District.

(c) Co-operative Department

At the district level, the Department is represented by three Assistant registrars, viz. the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur; the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Fazilka, and the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Zira. They are under the administrative control of the Deputy Registrar Co-operative Societies, Firozpur (office established in 1974) and under the overall control of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The Office of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur, was established in 1925. He is assisted by 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 statistical assistant, 25 inspectors, 24 sub-inspectors, besides some other ministerial and class IV staff. The Assistant Registrar, Co-operative

Societies, Fazilka is assisted by 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 statistical assistant, 30 inspectors and 29 sub-inspectors, besides some other ministerial staff and class IV staff. The Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Zira is assisted by 1 superintendent grade IV, 1 statistical assistant, 15 inspectors, 16 sub-inspectors, besides other class III and class IV staff.

The main functions of the Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Firozpur, Fazilka and Zira, are to ensure the proper growth and development of the co-operative movement ; the registration of co-operative societies, to exercise supervision over them and to ensure the audit of the accounts of these societies. They also advance loans to the members of the societies for stepping up agricultural production. Loans are also advanced in the form of fertilizers, seeds and agricultural implements.

(d) Food and Supplies Department

The Department is represented in the District by the District Food and Supplies Controller, Firozpur. He is under the administrative control of the Director, Food and Supplies, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The Office of the District Food and Supplies Controller, Firozpur was established in 1944. He is assisted by 3 district food and supplies officers, 10 assistant food and supplies officers, 1 senior auditor, 1 superintendent, 6 head analysts, 12 deputy analysts, 1 statistical assistant, 3 accountants, 23 junior auditors, 60 food and supplies inspectors and 91 sub-inspectors, besides some other class IV staff.

The main functions of the Department are : the procurement of foodgrains and the distribution of sugar, rice, wheat, *atta* and vegetable ghee through fair-price shops in urban as well as in rural areas, issue/the renewal of brick-kilns and firewood licences, allotment of coal/coke and cement, the checking of brick-kilns and cement depots, issuing and checking of licences of foodgrains, rice-hullers, rice-shellers, kerosene, ghee, rice, sugar, yarn, etc. The Department also maintains its own godowns for storing foodgrains.

(e) Finance Department

The Finance Department is represented in the District by the Treasury Officer, who is in charge of the District Treasury, Firozpur. He is assisted by 4 assistant treasury officers (in charge of sub-treasuries at Abohar, Fazilka, Guru Har Sahai and Zira), 1 assistant superintendent, 1 sadar cashier (district treasurers), 6 assistant treasurers, 12 assistants besides some other ministerial and class IV staff.

Previously, the District Treasury was under the control of the Extra Assistant Commissioner (Revenue Department), who could not devote whole-time attention, being mainly concerned with magisterial work. The treasury work was, as such, in addition to his normal duties. Under the scheme of Reorganisation of Treasuries, introduced in 1955 into the State, the treasuries were transferred to the Finance Department. Since then, the post of the Treasury Officer has been manned by the officers from the Punjab Finance and Accounts Service cadres.

The main duties of the treasuries officer and the assistant treasury officers are to receive money and make payments on behalf of the Punjab Government and to maintain the initial accounts of the Government. They are also responsible to the Accountant-General, Punjab, for the regular submission of monthly accounts, allied returns, etc.

(f) Planning Department

The Planning Department is represented at the District level by the District Statistical Officer, Firozpur. His office was established in 1958. He is assistd by 3 technical assistants, 1 inspector, 1 statistical assistant, 14 field assistants, besides some other ministerial and class IV staff.

The main functions of the District Statistical Officer are to co-ordinate the statistical activities of various offices at the district level and to publish statistical data to improve the quality of the statistical work done at the district level, to conduct *ad hoc* socio-economic survey to collect price data for supplying to different Central and State agencies, to collect weekly retail prices, and to act as the store of statistics for government institutions and interested public.

(g) Language Department

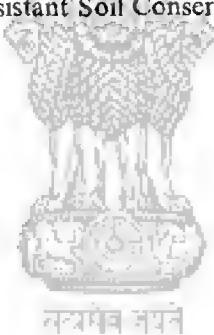
The Language Department is represented at the district level by the District Language Officer, who is assisted by 1 instructor, besides some ministerial and class IV staff. The office came into existence in 1962.

The main functions of the District Language Officer are to popularize Punjabi in the District, to impart training in Punjabi shorthand and typewriting, to organize literary meetings, *kvri darbars* (poetical symposia) dramas, debates and poetic compositions, to celebrate birth and death anniversaries of renowned poets and writers of the District at their native places ; to undertake the linguistic survey and to bring out glossaries, to give financial assistance to literary men and institutions or organisations and to assist the government offices in translating pamphlets/books into Punjabi.

(h) Soil Conservation and Engineering Department

The Soil Conservation and Engineering Department is represented in the District by the Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Firozpur. His office was established in September, 1967. He is assisted by 3 Assistant soil conservation officers, 1 assistant accounts officer, 35 agricultural inspectors/soil-conservation inspectors, 74 agricultural sub-inspectors, besides some other ministerial and class IV staff. There are three sub-divisions in the charge of this office, located at Firozpur, Fazilka and Zira, each headed by an assistant soil-conservation officer.

The main functions of the Department are the execution of land-improvement schemes which include soil conservation, the improvement of the irrigation system by constructing pucca water-channels, the laying of underground irrigation system and installing the sprinkler irrigation system in the fields of the cultivator. It also undertakes the levelling of land, so that proper irrigation can be provided. The field work is executed by the Assistant Soil Conservation Office.



CHAPTER XIV

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

(a) *Evolution of Local Self-Government in the District*—It is a common belief that India had from time immemorial her own self-governing institutions. The village communities of the remotest past, the *sabha* and *samiti* of the ancient times and the village *panchayats* of the medieval ages, all flourished as autonomous units and discharged many functions of the modern local bodies. The history of the modern self-governing institutions in India dates back to 1687 when the East India Company by a Charter established the Municipal Corporation at Madras. Similar types of corporations were set up in Calcutta and Bombay in 1720 and 1793 respectively. The experiment in the field of self-governing institutions was no longer confined to these provinces and attempts were made to set up local bodies outside the presidency towns. In Bengal, an Act, providing for the formation of a municipal committee on the application of two-thirds of the population of a town was passed in 1842. Similar measures were enacted in 1850 and 1856 in many other provinces of the country to popularise the establishment of local bodies.

The municipal administration in the Punjab, in the present form, also owes its origin to the British. The British constituted municipalities, keeping many factors in view—the main factor at least in the towns of the Punjab was on military grounds. The British Army, while crossing to the towns of the Punjab and entering them on expeditions or otherwise, faced considerable difficulties in getting clean drinking-water. Consequently, they caught infectious diseases which greatly affected their health and efficiency.

The Royal Army Sanitary Commission, in its *Report* in 1863, invited pointed attention to the unhealthy conditions of the towns. The Punjab Government took prompt action in pursuance of these recommendations. And, under the Punjab Municipal Act XV of 1867, the voluntary provision for the constitution of municipalities was dropped and the Provincial Government assumed the necessary powers to set up committees to look after the water-supply, lighting, sanitation, etc. of the towns in the State. The said Act further permitted the election of the Provincial Government. These measures proved to be useful in improving the sanitary conditions in the towns.

The real progress in the field of local self-government, however, began under the Viceroyalty of Lord Mayo (1869—72). The Governor-General was eager to introduce reforms and also to relieve the imperial finances. To achieve that objective, he planned to entrust the local objects to local revenues and local interests. Lord Mayo's Resolution

(1870) of provincial finances, which encouraged the general application of the principle of election to the local bodies was another step in the development of local self-government in India.

The advent of Lord Ripon (1880—84) marked a new chapter in the history of local self-government in India. Before him, the condition of the local bodies was far from satisfactory. There was hardly any trace of election, much less of independent authority, and no specific powers were granted to local authorities. Lord Ripon, in 1882, issued a comprehensive resolution, recommending the removal of all the existing defects in the local bodies and also making them the instruments of political education. Thus the local self-government as a conscious movement, began with Lord Ripon who is described the "Father of Local Self-Government in India".

The progress of the local self-government was, however, impeded by two factors—first, the officials did not display the generosity that was expected of them and, second, the municipal elections failed to attract men of ability and reputation. Moreover, the local bodies were saddled with a responsibility, but no adequate funds were placed at their disposal.

The review of the local self-government done by the Royal Commission on the Decentralization in 1907—09 did not embody any progressive municipal policy. The introduction of communal electorates under the Government of India Act, 1909, proved to be a great impediment to the growth and development of municipal administration. The Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, did not introduce any substantial changes into the municipal administration. In 1912, at the direction of the Government of India, the appointment of a health officer was made compulsory in large towns. During the period 1909—19, paternalism was the keynote of municipal administration. The municipal committees suffered from financial stringency, rigid official control and lack of trained personnel. The outbreak of the World War-I (1914—18) adversely affected the working of the municipalities. By and large, the local self-government in the districts continued to be one of the functions of the district officers.

Under the scheme of dyarchy, 1919—37, the local self-government became a transferred subject and was expected to make a headway at the hands of the Indian Ministers who were entrusted with its administration in various provinces. Under this scheme, the official control was gradually relaxed and the local bodies were made completely elected organizations. The new policy accepted the principle that political education of the public must take precedence over departmental efficiency. The Government of India Act, 1919, prescribed a new scheme of taxes, which

could be levied by or for the local bodies. This measure not only enlarged the sphere of taxation, but also enabled the local bodies to feel a sense of independence.

Under the Punjab Small Towns Act of 1922, provision was made for the setting up of a comparatively simple machinery for the municipal administration of small towns, each with a population of less than 10,000. Under the new scheme, the town committees, consisting of not less than 5 members, three-fourths of whom were to be elected, were proposed for all such towns. The Punjab Municipal (Executive Officer), Act, 1931, invested the provincial Government with powers to appoint executive officers to administer the municipalities. After the passage of the Government of India Act, 1935, which gave full autonomy to the provinces, efforts were made to further improve the structure and working of the local bodies and in many provinces, the nominated element in the local bodies was altogether done away with.

After Independence, the concept of local self-government was further changed. The municipalities were called upon to shoulder greater responsibility with respect to the municipal administration and giving the towns and cities a modern outlook. The Indian Constitution embodies provision for the progress of local self-government in the country.

The Punjab Government appointed a Local Self-Government (Urban) Enquiry Committee in 1954 to suggest means for fostering local initiative and enterprise for enlarging the scope of financial autonomy, subject to irreducible control, and for enlisting the co-operation of the people on a voluntary basis. The Committee, in its report in 1957, recommended the enlargement of autonomy of the municipal bodies to the maximum extent, compatible with the imperative needs of continuity, efficiency, and integrity in municipal administration.

(b) Organization and Structure

Functions and Duties of Municipal Committees

Local government is the provision of services to a local community through a representative assembly. Municipal services affect the life of the citizen from the womb to the tomb. Under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the municipal committees are required to make a reasonable provision within their financial limits for street lighting, cleaning of public streets, management of slaughter-houses ; constructing of latrines, urinals, bathing and washing-places, installing of sewerage and the providing of public facilities for drinking-water ; the removal and disposal of refuse ; construction and maintenance of roads and bridges within the municipal

area ; control of dispensaries, maternity centres and child welfare clinics ; the registration of births and deaths ; control and prevention of epidemics and infectious diseases ; regulation of dangerous or offensive trades or practices ; maintenance and regulation of the burial and burning places for the disposal of the dead ; disposal of unclaimed dead bodies ; the disposal of rabid and stray dogs and other animals ; public vaccination; the removal of encroachments on public streets, public places, etc.

Apart from the administrative powers mentioned above, the municipalities have an important legislative function, viz. the power to make bye-laws.

Before 1957, elementary education was one of the obligatory functions of municipal committees in the State. But this system did not work satisfactorily. Charges of apathy, incompetency, ill-treatment of teachers, religious and political bias, nepotism and other forms of graft were levelled against the municipalities. By and large, the municipal committees had not developed an adequate sense of civic responsibility in the field of education. These factors led the Punjab Government to divest municipal committees of their responsibilities in this field, and all the municipal schools primary, middle and high in the State, were provincialized in October, 1957. The municipalities have since been required to pay fixed contribution to Government in lieu of this obligation.

Firozpur Municipality

The Municipal Committee, Firozpur, was constituted in 1885, under section 4 of the Punjab Municipal Act of 1884,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 1652-S, dated 12 October 1885. The territorial limits of the Municipality, as declared in the notification, remain unchanged till today. The octroi limits of the Municipality were declared,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 22, dated 20 February 1909. These are, however, not coterminous with the territorial limits. The bye-laws were introduced in 1918, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 6567, dated 29 October 1918.

The municipality at present consists of 23 elected members. The term of office of a member is 5 years.

The various activities of the Municipality are given below :

Drainage and sewerage.—The drainage system was introduced into the City in 1916. The sewerage scheme is in hand and up to 31 March 1970, Rs 66,000 was spent on it. For the flushing of the main drains in the city, there are 5 hydrants and 2 flushing stations which have been connected

with the pipelines of the water-supply system. For the drainage of the city, there are two outfalls, viz. Amritsari Gate Outfall (situated outside the Amritsari Gate) and Aktari Outfall (situated outside the Zira Gate). At each outfall, there are 2 pucca sullage tanks. The sullage is lifted from these tanks with mechanically driven pumps and utilized for irrigating the attached sewage farms. There is also a *jhalar* in Basti Mamnewali, but no municipal sewage farm is attached to it.

Street Lighting.—The Firozpur city was electrified in 1934 by the P.W.D. Hydro-electric Department. The supply of energy for street lighting was secured by the municipality during the same year. Before that, kerosene lamps and gas lamps were used for the purpose. On 31 March 1980, 989 electric points were installed for lighting the streets within the area of the Municipality.

Public Health.—The municipality has employed 198 sweepers. It has four tractors, four trolleys and one bullock-cart for disposing of refuse. Till 30 June 1954, the city refuse was removed in trucks to compost trenches and after proper composting, the manure was sold to the farmers. The Municipality had to spend Rs 12,000 annually on the removal of refuse and its composting, but, in return, it never received more than Rs 6,000 per annum as the price of the composted manure. From 1 July 1954, the city refuse is removed on contract, which system is profitable to the Municipality as it brings income without any expenditure.

Water-Supply.—Water-supply scheme was introduced into Firozpur in 1959-60. For this purpose, six tube-wells were installed. Besides, there were approximately 416 wells in the city.

Roads.—The Municipality maintains 38 kilometres of roads.

Libraries.—The Municipality maintains the Mahesh Chand Memorial Municipal library and a reading-room. Constructed in 1934, the Library is located in the heart of the city and is visited by a large number of people. A whole-time librarian is in charge of the Library.

Adjacent to the Main Library, there is a Children's Library.

Municipal Parks.—The municipality maintains three parks, the first in the Town Hall, the second is outside the Makhu Gate and the third is outside the Delhi Gate. The first two are meant for the general public and the third for the children.

The Municipality maintains two health centres. The taxes levied by the Municipality comprise the otroi tax, toll tax, show tax, tax on land

and buildings, and the building-applications tax. The income and expenditure of the municipality are given hereunder :

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	2,133	1,632
1974-75	2,915	2,550
1975-76	2,338	3,350
1976-77	3,659	3,569
1977-78	2,920	3,107
1978-79	3,294	3,306
1979-80	3,488	3,496

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

Cantonment Board, Firozpur

The Cantonment Board, Firozpur, was constituted in 1891,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 45, dated 15 January 1891. The bye-laws were introduced in 1931.

Elections to the Cantonment Board are held under the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924, and the Cantonment Electoral Rules, 1955 (amended up-to-date). The stay and the duration of the Cantonment Executive Officer depend upon the orders of the Government of India, Ministry of Defence (Military Lands and Cantonments Directorate).

The drainage system was introduced in 1928. Some of the drains have been constructed by the Board. The Board has employed 303 scavengers and 6 bullock-carts for the disposal of refuse. The collection and the removal of night-soil and rubbish in the military area are done by means of night-soil receptacles and motor-lorries-trolleys. The night-soil, is disposed of in shallow trenches in private fields at the expense of the Board and receipt of a lump-sum contract money. In the civil area, the collection of night-soil and rubbish from the private houses is done by private sweepers. It is deposited in masonry rubbish bins provided at selected places and removed therefrom by motor-lorries or by tractors with trailers for the final disposal by trenching and is sold in the form of manure after specified intervals.

The water-supply system was introduced into some areas of the Sadar Bazaar in 1963. Later on, it was extended to almost all areas of the Bazaar and a portion of the Bungalow area on the Church Road and the Jhoke Road. The Board has installed two tube-wells.

Electricity is supplied by the Punjab State Electricity Board and the Military Engineering Service. The Cantonment Board has installed one flood searchlight (in the Gandhi Garden), 193 fluorescent tube lights, 23 mercury-vapour lamps and 393 ordinary bulbs. The Board also maintains 29.76 km. of metalled roads.

The Board maintains a 30-bed hospital, known as the Cantonment General Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment. There is a separate isolation ward in the Hospital.

The Board maintains a library-cum-reading-room and a garden known as the Gandhi Gardens.

The taxes levied by the Board comprise house tax, toll tax, octroi tax, dog tax, hawker tax, water tax, show tax, etc. The income and expenditure of the Board, during 1972-73 to 1979-80, are given below:

Year		Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1972-73		20,10,998	20,17,447
1973-74		20,16,219	19,74,419
1974-75	नगरपालिका नियन्त्रण	20,26,072	23,32,119
1975-76		33,99,040	30,40,764
1976-77		38,65,976	36,67,980
1977-78		33,77,635	32,47,217
1978-79		33,17,916	35,35,757
1979-80		30,95,532	33,50,486

(Source : Cantonment Board, Firozpur)

Tankanwali Municipality¹

Tankanwali was constituted a Notified Area Committee under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 295-L.S.G.37/8508, dated 2 March 1937. Later, on it was converted into

¹Tankanwali Municipality was merged with the Municipal Committee, Firozpur in 1979.

a Small Town Committee vide Punjab Government Notification No. 6184-LB-52/3938, dated 11 August 1952. The Town Committee was converted into a Municipal Committee, Class III, vide Punjab Government Notification No. 7345-LB(CH)-54/2509, dated 25 January 1955.

The limits of the Municipality were fixed,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 295-L.S.G.37/8507, dated 2 March 1937, since when these have not been extended. The bye-laws were introduced in 1957.

The income and expenditure of the Municipality were as under :

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	111	212
1974-75	90	104
1975-76	322	163
1976-77	384	354
1977-78	169	245
1978-79	290	225

(*Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1979*)

Guru Har Sahai Municipality

Guru Har Sahai was originally declared as a Notified Area Committee,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 91, dated 14 February 1908. In 1929, it was converted into a Small Town Committee, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 35105, dated 5 November 1929. The Town Committee was converted into a Municipal Committee, Class III with effect from 1 April 1955. The limits of the Municipality were extended two times,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification Nos. 185-CC-56/4900, dated 30 January 1956 and 13744-C-56/980, dated 24 January 1957. The bye-laws were introduced in 1927.

The Municipal Committee has 14 members, whose term of office is 5 years.

The water-supply system was introduced into the town in 1966. One tube-well has been installed. The Municipality has spent Rs 2,40,000 on the scheme.

For the cleanliness of the town, the Municipality has employed 22 full-time sweepers and 7 part-time sweepers. For the removal of refuse and night-soil, one tractor and two bullock-carts are used. The night-soil is deposited in compost pits and later on sold through auction.

The drainage system was introduced in 1924. The Town was electrified in 1956. For lighting within the Municipal area, 40 tubes and 71 electric bulbs have been installed. The Municipality runs a library and has a childrens' park. It maintains 4 km of pucca road within its area.

The taxes levied by the Municipality comprise octroi, loaded-vehicle tax, vehicle tax, tax on professions and trades, land tax, building tax, etc. The income and expenditure of the municipality are given below :

Year		Income (000 Rs.)	Expenditure (000 Rs.)
1973-74		298	330
1974-75		464	363
1975-76		530	566
1976-77		547	758
1977-78		711	744
1978-79		867	884
1979-80		1,096	1,074

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

Municipal Committee, Talwandi Bhai

The Municipal Committee, Talwandi Bhai, was constituted in 1956, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 11084-C-56/85287 dated 23/27 November 1956. The limits of the Municipality were fixed by the same notification. The bye-laws were introduced in 1960.

The Municipal Committee has 15 members, who are elected for 5 years.

The Town was electrified in 1954. Ninety-one electric points have been installed for street lighting.

The Municipality has employed 19 scavengers for cleaning the Town. The drainage system was introduced in 1961. The Municipality also maintains a tractor, a trolley and ten *rehries* (hand-carts) for the disposal of refuse.

The Municipality runs a library, a reading-room and a park. It also maintains 3.75 kilometres of roads.

The taxes levied by the Municipality are octroi, toll tax, cycle tax, etc. Its income and expenditure are given below :

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	527	583
1974-75	365	298
1975-76	446	469
1976-77	584	561
1977-78	552	613
1978-79	301	253
1979-80	749	772

(*Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980*)

Zira Municipality

The Municipal Committee, Zira, was constituted in 1876, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 457, dated 7 April 1876. Originally, there were 6 members of the Committee—2 *ex-officio* and 4 elected. Some time later, the constitution was changed to five elected members and one nominated member. In 1952, the nominated element was eliminated and the strength of the Committee was fixed at 8 elected members. The Municipality at present consists of 16 elected members. The terms of office is 5 years.

The limits of the Municipality were fixed, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 81, dated 14 February 1902. The municipal bye-laws were introduced, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 2121, dated 31 March 1927.

The drainage system was introduced into the Zira Town in 1912. Except some portions, pucca drains have been provided in all the streets. The Municipality employs 16 scavengers for cleaning the Town. Two bullock-carts are used for the disposal of refuse.

So far, the water-supply system has not been introduced into the Town. The Municipality has, however, installed three tube-wells.

The Municipality has installed 156 electric points for street lighting. The length of the metalled roads maintained by it is 4.72 km. The Municipality also maintains two parks for children.

The taxes levied by the Municipality include : octroi, house tax, total tax, etc. Its income and expenditure are given below :

Year		Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74		246	212
1974-75	ਨਾਗਰਿਕ ਸੰਘ	396	412
1975-76		479	683
1976-77		742	748
1977-78		754	641
1978-79		1,174	1,076
1979-80		1,402	1,335

(*Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980*)

Dharmkot Municipality

Dharmkot was formed a municipal committee under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1873, which repealed Act XV of 1867 hitherto administering the town. It continued as such up to 1911. The Committee comprises 13 elected members.

Under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the Town was converted into a Notified Area Committee. In 1925, it was formed a Small Town Committee *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 20261, dated 14 September 1925, and continued as such up to 31 March 1955. During that period, the Committee was composed of 9 members, including 2 appointed or nominated members, *vide* Punjab Government Notification 20262, dated 14 September 1925. The appointment of 2 nominated members was abolished in 1953, subsequently, all the 9 members were elected.

The Punjab Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1954, repealed the Punjab Small Town Act, 1922, and provided a uniform pattern for all types of urban local bodies in the State. Thereby, the municipal committees, class II, replaced the small-town committee. Accordingly, Dharmkot was raised to Municipal Committee, Class III, with effect from 1 April 1955, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 7345-LB (CM)-54/2509, dated 25 January 1955. The bye-laws were introduced in 1964.

The Municipality employs 18 scavengers for the cleanliness of the Town. Bullock-carts are used for removing rubbish and night-soil which are deposited in compost pits and the compost is sold through auction.

The water-supply system was introduced into the Town in 1957. The Town was electrified in 1960. For street lighting, 152 electric points have been installed. The Municipality also runs a reading room.

The taxes levied by the Municipality are octroi, house tax, tool tax, tax on buildings, etc. Its income and expenditure are as under:

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	135	183
1974-75	94	107
1975-76	240	236
1976-77	348	204
1977-78	190	299
1978-79	662	634
1979-80	317	411

Fazilka Municipality

The Municipal Committee, Fazilka, was constituted in 1885 *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 486, dated 10 December 1885. Its limits were fixed *vide* Government Notification No. 415, dated 3 July 1916, and these were revised *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 421-C-38/6308, dated 31 February 1938. The municipal bye-laws were introduced into the Town *vide* Notification No. 541, dated 1 November 1905.

There are 21 members of the Committee and their duration of office is five years.

Before the supply of electricity was taken over by the Punjab State Electricity Board in 1955, it was supplied by a private firm, Harbhagwan Nanda and Co., which had its own power-house. For street lighting within the municipal area, 340 tubes and 455 bulbs have been installed.

The water-supply system was introduced in 1965. Two tube-wells, with one reservoir, were installed by the Municipality. The sewerage scheme is also under execution.

For cleanliness of the town, the Municipality has employed 135 scavengers. It has two tractors, ten trolleys and some carts for the disposal of refuse. The night-soil is deposited in compost pits and the compost later on is sold through public auction.

The Municipality maintains a health centre, a library-cum-reading room and a park. It also maintains 19 Kms of metalled roads.

The taxes levied by the municipality comprise house tax, octroi, toll tax, hawker carts tax, show tax, etc. Its income and expenditure are as under:

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	1,406	1,337
1974-75	1,622	1,490
1975-76	1,860	2,023
1976-77	2,685	2,984
1977-78	2,730	2,626
1978-79	2,218	2,258
1979-80	2,646	2,655

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

Abohar Municipality

Abohar was constituted as a Notified Area Committee,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification Nos. 85,86 and 87, dated 14 February 1908. It was converted into a Municipal Committee, Class-II, —*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 31,438, dated 12 December, 1922. The limits of the Municipality were extended,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. MCH(XIII)12-59/5341, dated 6 February, 1961 and the adjoining *bastis* were included in the Municipal limits. It was raised to a Municipal Committee, Class I, in November, 1968. The bye-laws were promulgated in 1927.

In the beginning, the Municipality had 8 members, of whom 6 were elected and 2 were nominated. Later on, their number was raised to 12. The number of the members was further raised to 17 (including 3 Scheduled Castes, elected from double-members constituencies), all of whom are elected. Now, the Municipality has 24 members and their membership is five years.

The Abohar Waterworks was constructed in 1928 at a cost of Rs 3,25,000. With the increase in the population of the Town, arrangements for the supply of water are also being extended.

The drainage system was introduced into the Town in 1928. The sullage water is collected in a tank, from which it is pumped out and used for irrigation.

The Municipality has employed 185 scavengers for the cleanliness of the Town. For the removal of refuse and night-soil, 2 tractors and 8 trolleys are used. The night-soil is deposited in compost pits and the compost is sold later on to the public by auction. A chief sanitary inspector, a sanitary inspector and 6 *jamadars* have been engaged to look after the sanitation of the Town.

Abohar was electrified in 1953-54. The whole Town has 1,530 lights. Out of them, 1,237 are filament tubes and 293 are bulbs on main roads and *chowks* (roundabouts).

The Municipality maintains 91·30 km of roads. It runs a library and a reading room, both located in the Town Hall.

The Municipality maintains 3 Ayurvedic dispensaries. It also maintains seven parks for children, etc.

The taxes levied by the Municipality are octroi, house tax, cinema-show tax, etc. The income and expenditure of the Municipality are given below:

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	3,183	3,448
1974-75	3,586	3,246
1975-76	4,161	4,308
1976-77	5,058	4,575
1977-78	4,968	4,575
1978-79	5,719	5,846
1979-80	6,107	6,034

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

Jalalabad Municipality

Jalalabad was once the seat of the Nawab of Mamdot. It was constituted a Notified Area Committee in 1915, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 467 dated 24 July 1915. The Notified Area Committee continued to function up to 1936, when it was abolished, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 106-LSG-36/2229, dated 22 January 1936. It remained defunct from 23 January 1936 to 21 March 1937, and was reconstituted in 1938 *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 506-LG-38/10917, dated 23 March 1938. It was declared a Small Town Committee, Punjab Government Notification No. 1437-LB-51/58, dated 4 January 1952. The Small Town Committee was converted into the Municipal Committee, Class III, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 7345-LB(CH)-54/2509, dated 25 January 1955. The bye-laws were promulgated in 1960. The limits of the Municipality were extended *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 21(35)-3CI-69/355, dated 7 November 1969. It was upgraded to the Class II Municipality in 1972.

In 1952, the number of elected members was fixed at 8, *vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 407, dated 21 January 1952. Their number has since been increased to 17. All of them are elected for five years.

The Municipality has employed 39 scavengers for cleanliness of the Town. It has a tractor with four trolleys for the disposal of refuse. The night-soil of the town is carried to the compost depot.

Before the partition of 1947, there existed a small waterworks in the Town. It was destroyed during the disturbances of 1947. It was again started by the Municipality in 1953. The drainage system was introduced into the Town in 1936.

Before the partition, the Nawab of Mamdot had an electric generator for his own use. The supply of electricity to the Town was started by the Punjab State Electricity Board in 1958. The Municipality has installed 103 tubes and 79 bulbs for lighting the streets.

The Municipality maintains a park, a library and a reading-roon and a maternity and child welfare centre. It also maintains 7 km of metalled roads.

The main taxes levied by the Municipality are octroi, house tax, cycle tax, etc. Its income and expenditure are given below :

Year	Income (000 Rs)	Expenditure (000 Rs)
1973-74	744	1,047
1974-75	621	869
1975-76	692	753
1976-77	924	946
1977-78	947	994
1978-79	1,046	1,037
1979-80	1,174	1,201

(Statistical Abstracts of Punjab, 1974 to 1980)

(c) Panchayati Raj

Gram Panchayts and their historical background.—In India, the system of village *panchayats* is very old. In ancient times, the village formed the basic unit of social and economic life. The social contracts were more intimate, personal and lasting. Under the Muslim rulers, the *panchayats* lost their administrative and other functions and their scope was reduced to only social affairs.

The *Panchayat* System was partly revived under the Sikhs. The *panchs* (i.e. the members of the *gram panchayat*) were required to help the authorities to collect taxes, to represent the village before the rulers, and to bring the criminals to the notice of the authorities.

Under the British rule, the village organisation as a self-sufficient unit, which was the characteristic feature of the old Indian economy, disappeared. The joint-family system became weak to a great extent under the rising spirit of individualism, and the village community lost much of its internal cohesion and unity. The *panhayats* lost their power and prestige, and slowly became defunct and obsolete.

For the time being, there was a vacuum. But the spread of Western education created political consciousness among the urban people. There was a desire on their part to be associated with the government. Some sort of local self-government was introduced by the creation of local boards and municipalities. These bodies naturally followed the British pattern, based on their concepts of democracy. After some time, this experiment of self-government was extended to the rural areas in the form of village *panchayats*. The *panchayat*, in this context, was supposed to carry out municipal functions only. Even the *panchayat* legislation drew inspiration from the urban municipal legislation already enacted. It did not deal with the village life in its totality. It did not represent the wishes of the people and, as such, lacked inherent strength. Moreover, the people in this new set-up depended too much on the government for self-help and self-reliance, which alone could make the *panchayat* effective. These essentials were sadly missing. The people looked to the officials for patronage instead of coming forward and joining hands with one another to tackle their town problems.

Another cause of the failure was that the local self-government units—*panchayats*, local boards and district boards were not linked up with one another as an organic whole. There was no guidance or supervision from the higher bodies. Each one looked after its own field, quite unconcerned with the activities of others. However, the British Government did not take long to realize that the old *panchayats* must be resuscitated in some form or another, if there was to be revival of communal life in the rural areas. Accordingly, the work of reviving the *panchayats* through legislation was taken up in all the provinces in India. The earliest legislation in the Punjab was the Punjab Panchayat Act, 1912, which was followed by the Act of 1921. These enactments aimed at restoring old authority to the *panchayats*, wherever it existed, and reviving it in other villages. The *panchayats* once again, after many vicissitudes, became the lowest unit of administration in the State.

The *panchayats*, constituted under the above Act, were mainly judicial bodies, with hardly any emphasis on development work. Besides, there was no compulsion to establish a *gram panchayat* in a village. The two main reasons for the failure of these early attempts were : (1) the absence of a specialized agency to encourage, organize, guide and revitalize these *panchayats* along with the village community generally; and (ii) the fact that these institutions were placed directly under the control of district magistrates and collectors. The Punjab Panchayat Act of 1939 removed many of these difficulties by giving more powers, establishing more *panchayats* and by setting up a separate Panchayat Department to look after the *panchayats*. The policy proved quite successful and was followed up in subsequent years till 1947.

In this way, the origin of the institution of local self-government in the modern sense in our country can be taken to be as the efforts made by the British in this direction, although the local bodies which they introduced were hardly representative or self-governing. The powers given to them were so meagre and their financial resources were so limited that they could hardly provide any real scope for training in the art of self-government.

The necessity of establishing village *panchayats* throughout the country was fully recognized after Independence. Mahatma Gandhi had all along dreamt of "*Gram Swaraj*" or 'village republics'. Article 40 of the Constitution of India lays down that the State shall take steps to organize village panchayats and invest them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government. In pursuance of this policy, the Punjab Gram Panchayat Acts of 1952 and 1953 were passed. These enactments sought to establish '*Gram Swaraj*'. One main object sought to be achieved through this legislation was to restore to the *panchayats* their pristine influence in the villages, while helping to recreate as far as possible, the old bond of a corporate life, each member helping and co-operating with the rest of village community in the interest of common welfare. Under these Acts, the number of *panchayats* increased appreciably in the District.

The Punjab Gram Panchayats Act, 1952 provides for the establishment of *panchayats* in every village with a population of not less than 500 and a joint *panchayat* for a village with less population, by grouping it with any contiguous village or villages, so that the population of all the villages, so grouped, is not less than 500. All persons, entered as voters on the electoral rolls for the Vidhan Sabha, are members of the *Gram Sabha*. A *gram sabha* elects from among its members a chairman, called

sarpanch, and an executive committee, called the *gram panchayats*, consisting of 5 to 9 members (including the *sarpanch*), called *panchs*. Provision has also been made for the representation of women and of the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the *gram panchayats*. The term of office of the *panchs* and the *sarpanch* is five years.

The civil and administrative and judicial functions of the *panchayats* are laid down in the Punjab Gram *panchayat* Act, 1952(as amended up to 31 August 1960), which considerably enhanced their powers. Under this Act, there are two kinds of *panchayats*—*panchayats* with ordinary powers and *panchayats* with enhanced powers or *adalti panchayats*. The *panchayats*, with ordinary powers, have to perform two kinds of functions—administrative and civil, and judicial. The administrative and civil functions of these *panchayats* have been enumerated under sections 19 to 37 of the Act, which cover all kinds of development work within the jurisdiction of the *panchayat* area.

The *panchayats*, with enhanced powers or *adalti panchayats*, have been empowered to hear criminal and judicial cases and can try judicial and civil and revenue cases up to Rs 500 and Rs 200 respectively. The details regarding the cases dealt with by the *panchayats* are given in Chapter Law and Order and Justice.

The main sources of income of the *panchayats* are : revenue from the common (*shamlat*) land, land-revenue grant, grant from block budget, grants from local departments and voluntary contribution. The *panchayats* are also empowered to impose a variety of taxes, e.g. house tax, professional tax, and raise fees.

The income of the *panchayats* in the District during 1973-74 to 1979-80 is given below:

Income of Panchayats in the Firozpur District during 1973-74 to 1979-80

Source of income	1973-74 (Rs)	1974-75 (Rs)	1975-76 (Rs)	1976-77 (Rs)	1977-78 (Rs)	1978-79 (Rs)	1979-80 (Rs)
House tax	83,086	6,62,402	12,88,981	4,79,420	4,81,518	4,64,152	4,99,843
State Grants from the Government	2,56,154	3,50,736	2,88,116	5,26,592	3,34,702	7,81,341	31,73,544
Voluntary contributions	13,483	3,319	3,978	210	8,918	3,237	35,373
Total	3,52,723	10,16,457	15,81,075	10,06,222	8,25,138	12,48,730	37,08,760

(Source : Director Rural Development and Panchayats, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Panchayat Samitis.—A *panchayat samiti* is the second tier of the *Panchayati Raj* System of rural local self-government. Though the need for a second tier of local self-government to act as a bridge between the district boards and the *village panchayats* was recognized fairly long ago and efforts were also made in this direction even in the pre-Independence days, yet the credit for creating this unit goes to the Community Development Programme. A group of 100 villages, with a population of about 66,000, was selected as a new unit of administration, called the block.¹ The entire District of Firozpur is divided into 9 blocks. According to the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishad Act, 1961, each *panchayat samiti* should consist of the following members : Sixteen members from amongst panchs and *sarpanchs* of *gram panchayats* in the block, from among themselves ; 2 members from co-operative societies in the block ; and 1 producer members elected from the market committees in the block.

Four Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and two women members are to be co-opted if they do not come in the open election. However, this number is reduced to the extent that the total number of elected and co-opted members does not exceed 4 for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and two for women panchs.

In addition to the above, the Sub divisional Officer (Civil), having jurisdiction over the block and the Block Development and Panchayat Officer are the *ex-officio* members of a *panchayat samiti*. They shall, however, not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the samiti. Similarly, every member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, representing the constituency, of which the block forms a part, shall not be entitled to vote, but have the right to speak and otherwise take part in the proceedings of any meeting of the *panchayat samiti* or its committee.

Every *Panchayat Samiti* elects its chairman and vice-chairman from among the primary and co-opted members. The term of office of the primary and co-opted members and also of the chairman and the vice-chairman is the same as that of the members of the zila parishad, i.e. five years.

The Block Development and Panchayat Officer is the *ex-officio* executive officer of a *panchayat samiti* and is under its administrative control. The executive power of the *panchayat samiti* is however, divided between the chairman and the executive officer, the residuary executive

¹M.S. Randhawa, *National Extension Service and Community Projects in Punjab (Chandigarh, 1956)*, p. 272

powers vesting in the former. The *samiti* exercises its administrative control over all categories of the staff working under it. The *samiti* has also dealings with the Deputy Commissioner of the District and the Commissioner of the Division who exercises certain statutory powers of the supervision and control over it.

A *panchayat samiti* plays an important role in the development of villages. The term 'development work' covers agriculture, animal husbandry, co-operation, minor irrigation works, villages industries, social education, local communications, sanitation, health and medical relief, local amenities and similar subjects. The *samiti* has some optional functions, which it may, with the approval or at the suggestion of the zila parishad, provide for any matter other than those set out above. Also, the *samiti* has some agency functions, i.e. functions entrusted to *panchayat samitis* by the Government.

A *panchayat samiti* has the power to frame bye-laws on various subjects, power to acquire land or other immovable property ; power to contribute to joint works and undertaking, power under the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, which the Government may authorize a *samiti* to exercise ; the power to delegate to the chairman, the vice-chairman, the executive officer or any other government servant, all or any power conferred upon a *samiti* except the power to make by-laws, and the supervisory powers with respect to the *panchayats*.

The sources of income of a *samiti* consist of a composite *samiti* fund comprising (i) apportionment made by the Government out of the balance of the district fund at the credit of the zila parishad concerned ; (ii) all proceeds of local rate allotted to the *panchayat samiti* under section 63 of the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961 ;(iii) the proceeds of all taxes, cesses and fees imposed by a *panchayat samiti* and the income arising from all sources of income placed at its disposal under Section 62 of the Act ; (iv) the surcharge on the duty on the transfer of immovable property ; (v) the proceeds from periodical fairs, markets and bazzaars ; (vi) voluntary public contributions ; and (vii) grants made by the government.

Zila Parishad.—The District Board, Firozpur, was constituted in 1884 under the Punjab District Boards Act, 1883,—*vide* Punjab Government Notification No. 1704, dated 3 July 1884. It comprised 42 members of whom 28 were elected by the five local boards and the remaining 14 were appointed. The five local boards were established simultaneously in each of the five tahsil towns. There were 85 members of all these

five local boards. Out of the 85 members, 58 were elected and the remaining 27 were appointed. Those local boards, however, did not prove useful and were abolished in 1906, vide Punjab Government Notification No. 246, dated 13 December 1906. On the abolition of the local boards, the tahsils of the District were divided according to *zails* into a corresponding number of electoral circles, but the number of elected and appointed members remained the same. Later on, the number of the members of the District Board was fixed at 50, of whom 37 were elected and 13 were nominated. Of the nominated members, 6 were paid officers of the Punjab Government. The elections to the Board were held in 1936.

The District Board, Firozpur, continued to function till 13 June 1954, when it was superseded and reconstituted on the promulgation of the Governor's Ordinance of 1954, replaced by the Punjab District Boards (Temporary Constitution) Act, 1954, whereby all the members of the Boards, except the official members, vacated their seats and the administration of the Board passed on to the Deputy Commissioner in his capacity as the Chairman, with six other official members. Six more official members were added to the Board in 1956-57,—vide Punjab Government Notification No. 8348/LB(CH)-56/10383, dated 1 December 1956, and No. 17140-LB-56/8336, dated 5 February 1957.

The district boards were replaced by *Zila Parishads* by the Punjab Panchayat Samitis and Zila Parishads Act, 1961. Thus the District Board Firozpur, was superseded by the Zila Parishad, Firozpur, on 1 May 1965.

The Zila Parishad consists of elected members (two members per block out of the primary members of all the *Panchayats* in a block, elected by the *Panchayat Samiti* concerned); the chairman of every Panchayat Samiti in the District ; the Deputy Commissioner, the associate members (comprising the members of the Lok Sabha and the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, representing the District or any part of it) ; and the co-opted members (confined to women and the members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes). The term of office of the *Zila Parishad* is the same as that of a *Panchayat Samit*, i.e. five years. The *Zila Parishad*, Firozpur has a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman, elected by the members [excluding the associated members, i. e. MPs., M.L.As. and the *ex-officio* members, (the Deputy Commissioner), who have no right to vote at any meeting of the *Zila Parishad*] from among themselves.

There was no member of the *Zila Parishad*, Firozpur, on 31 March 1980, and it was governed by the Administrator (the Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur).

For the improvement of the general sanitation and cleanliness of the City and to adopt preventive measures against the spread of epidemics, sanitary supervisors and *Swasthya Sahayaks* are on the permanent establishment of the *Zila Parishad*, Firozpur.

With a view to promoting sports and games among the people of the rural areas the *Zila Parishad* holds District tournaments and also participates in State tournaments.

The main financial sources of the *Zila Parishad* are Government grants, share of the local rate and funds allotted to it for implementing departmental schemes. It has no independent powers of taxation. The income and expenditure of the *Zila Parishad*, Firozpur, during 1973-74 to 1979-80, is given below :

Year	Income (Rs)	Expenditure (Rs)
1973-74	11,29,134	12,87,724
1974-75	16,06,464	12,64,054
1975-76	10,95,587	10,06,384
1976-77	8,08,569	9,57,084
1977-78	10,57,206	8,44,009
1978-79	9,97,024	13,40,200
1979-80	9,16,349	8,06,800

(Source : Secretary, *Zila Parishad*, Firozpur)

(d) Town and Country Planning and Housing

The town and country planning plays a vital role in the planned development of urban and rural areas. Its objectives are both aesthetic and utilitarian. The planning aims not only at the balanced growth of

the towns and the country side, but also promote their growth. It seeks to tackle the problems of planned development by two principal measures, viz. by planning the vacant areas in and around towns, so as to ensure an increased supply of building plots for residences, industries, commerce, and institutions and by planning to improve the living conditions in the old and congested town areas, widening of roads, provision of parks, slum clearance, removal of congestion, etc.

The Firozpur District was covered by the town and country planning programme with the opening of the office of the Divisional Town Planner at Firozpur on 16 April 1970, with his jurisdiction over the districts of Firozpur and Bathinda. This office has undertaken the preparation of schemes of land acquisition and development by the Government as well as by the local bodies with a view to providing building plots for houses, industries and trade. Thus the urban estates, industrial estates, new grain markets, master plans for towns, model village plans; crash housing schemes for villages and for different localities are being designed.



CHAPTER XV

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

(a) Historical Background

There is no historical record or evidence, bearing testimony to the existence of any famous centre of learning in ancient or medieval period in the District. Before the advent of the British, education was merely a private concern. It was imparted through some *Pathshalas* or *madrassas*, existing in large villages and towns. Urdu was the medium of instruction in the schools. This was also the official script used in the courts and for maintaining revenue records. The main object of education in those days appears to have been religious. In some villages, mostly populated by the Sikhs, the Gurmukhi script was taught in the schools, and in *dharmshalas*, religious instruction was imparted. The primary object of all education at that time was to train the students in the performance of religious duties in the prescribed manner.

With a view to promoting and spreading learning among the masses, the personal and religious character of education was maintained in the District throughout that period. There were three systems of education, viz. the Brahmin system, which became obsolete and rare, the Muslim system, which taught Arabic, Persian and Urdu in *maktab*s and mosques, and the Sikh System which taught Panjabi in the Gurmukhi script. The Pandits and the *maulvis* taught their religious books to the children in the temples and mosques and imparted only religious instruction. Individual teaching also existed, especially among the higher classes. It was looked upon as a family process. The simple *lande* or *mahajan* script was also taught in homes or at shops. Schools in public places, such as mosques, temples and *gurudwaras* were known as public schools. They were patronized by the community to which they belonged. They were given rent-free land, a certain quantity of grain per plough, some allowances in the form of *aatta* (wheat flour), food or cash for reading prayers or for performing religious ceremonies. Some of them also got *jagirs* or rent-free land from the State.¹

In the second half of the nineteenth century, regular primary schools were opened in the District. A primary school at Dharmkot (Zira Tahsil) was started in 1863 and it was elevated to a middle school in 1871. A primary school at Mahrana (Mahorajpur) (Fazilka Tahsil) was started in 1875 and it was raised to the middle standard in 1878. Later on, on

¹For particulars regarding indigenous schools, teachers working there, number of pupils, and the subjects taught at different places in the Firozpur District, during the early eighties of the nineteenth century refer to: G.W. Leitner, *History of Indigenous Education in the Punjab Since Annexation and 1882* (Reprinted 1971), pp. 128-32

the English Pattern, primary schools were opened at Firozpur, Zira and Ratta Khera (Fazilka Tahsil). These schools were recognized by the Panjab Education Department and a uniform syllabus comprising the teaching of Persian, Urdu, Arithmetic and Algebra was prescribed.

The education of women and under privileged classes was generally neglected, and it made very little progress before the advent of the British. The people of the under privileged classes, such as Jhiwars, Bazigars, Rai Sikh, Harijans and other backward classes formed the labour classes and had no time for going to school.

The constitution of the Panjab Education Department in 1856 started a new era in the history of Western education in India and new schools and colleges were established in the District. In 1860, the control of all the vernacular schools in the Panjab was entrusted to the deputy commissioners and tahsildars. But this arrangement failed to provide for the professional supervision of the schools and it was soon found necessary to appoint an inspector in each district as the Deputy Commissioner's executive agent and adviser in the management of schools. In the same year, provision was made for levying school fees. Superior Anglo-vernacular *Zila* (district) schools were also established, and the personnel and curriculum in all schools improved. In 1868-70, the status of village schoolmaster was improved. The minimum salary was fixed at Rs. 10 per month. But funds ran short, and as a result, a number of schools were closed. The decentralization of finance in 1871, however, enabled the Provincial Government to devote more adequate funds to education, and the number of village schools rose rapidly and their efficiency improved.

In the beginning of 1886-87, the control of departmental schools of all grades in the Panjab was transferred to the district boards and municipal committees. The only schools retained by the Education Department were the schools for Europeans, the practising schools attached to training institutions and a few special schools.

English education was confined to special classes of society in the urban areas. The reactionary sections of the society reacted to the Western type of education, especially in the case of girls. The conservative Indian society was loath to send girls to schools. But, gradually, it began to be looked with favour in higher circles of society. It profoundly influenced the people of higher families and they began to copy the Western fashion, culture and manners.

The passage of the Panjab Education Act, 1918, and the Compulsory Education Act, 1919, gave a fillip to primary education in the District. The number of primary schools was increased. Moreover, many schools were upgraded to middle and high schools.

Besides all these institutions, a number of other schools were subsequently opened in the District. The Dev Samaj, the Arya Samaj, the Sanatan Dharm Sabha and other organisations have played a vital role in the field of education among the people. Ever since the beginning of the present century, education among the masses has been on the increase. The number of schools, students and teachers is showing an upward trend according to the needs of the people. The Dev Samaj College for Women and the Sikh Kanya Maha Vidyalaya at the Firozpur City are rather old institutions in the District and enjoy a good reputation among the masses.

(b) Literacy and Educational Standards

There was a time when, educationally, Firozpur was considered to be the most backward district. However, since the partition of the country in 1947, with the opening of many new primary, middle and high schools and colleges, the District has made a good deal of leeway in the field of education. In 1971, the literacy percentage in the Firozpur District was 27.36 in contrast with 33.7 per cent for the State and 34 per cent for the country. Further, the literacy percentage was 34.3 in the case of males in contrast with 19.4 in the case of females, in the Firozpur District in 1971.

With the progressive awakening among the masses, there is an increasing demand for more and more of schools from all quarters, especially from the rural areas. The parents seem to be eager that their children should be provided with proper facilities for education. There is also a strong urge among the people for giving education to the girls.

The following table shows the progress of school education in the Firozpur District from 1973-74 to 1978-79 :

Serial No.	Type of Schools	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
1 Primary Schools		849	903	927	927	1,129	1,128
2 Middle Schools		118	135	143	155	161	147
3 High/Higer Secondary Schools	..	91	92	93	100	107	121
Total	..	1,058	1,130	1,163	1,172	1,397	1,396

(Source : District Education Officer, Firozpur and *Statistical Abstract of Punjab, 1980*)

Though the main responsibility for providing the people with educational facilities rests on the State, yet the various educational societies, missions and philanthropic endowments are also rendering valuable service to the people in the field of education in the District. Those important among such societies are briefly mentioned below :

Educational Societies Rendering Service in the Field of Education

Christian Missions.—The Christian missionaries have done a pioneer work in the field of education in the District. The Mission Training School for Village Teachers was originally started at Firozpur in 1908, but was shifted to Moga in 1911. The cost of its building was met from the subscription raised in America.

(2) **Dev Samaj.**—This society has also done excellent work in the spread of education and social uplift of women in the District through its various institutions. The schools and colleges run under its management are the oldest institutions in the District.

The Dev Samaj runs the following institutions in the District :—

- (i) Dev Samaj College for Women, Firozpur City
- (ii) Dev Samaj College of Education for Women, Firozpur City
- (iii) Dev Samaj Girls High School, Firozpur City
- (iv) Dev Samaj Kindergarten and Nursery School, Firozpur
- (v) Dev Samaj Girls Middle School, Ferozeshah

(3) **Arya Samaj.**—The Arya Samaj has been playing a vital role in the educational, social and religious spheres. The Arya Samaj Orphanage, Firozpur, founded in 1878, has three boarding houses, one each for boys, girls and widows.

The Arya Samaj caters for the long-felt need of the people for higher education and runs the following schools and colleges in the District :

- (i) D.A.V. College for Women, Firozpur
- (ii) Arya Girls Higher Secondary School, Firozpur Cantonment

(4) **Sanatan Dharm Sabha.**—This society is also rendering useful service to the people in the sphere of education in the District. It is running the following institutions :—

- (i) S.D. Higher Secondary School, Firozpur City
- (ii) Hindu Girls Higher Secondary School, Firozpur
- (iii) S.D. High School, Fazilka,

(5) **Sikh Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Management, Firozpur City.**—In 1883, Bhai Takhat Singh started a girls school in the Firozpur City. It was the first institution of its kind in the District. The institution has been doing useful service to the people by spreading female education. It is provided with a boarding-house.

(6) **Harbhagwan Management Society, Firozpur City.**—In order to perpetuate the memory of the Lala Harbhagwan Das, Extra Assistant Commissioner, the Harbhagwan Memorial School, Firozpur was founded in 1897 by Rai Gopi Mal, Honorary Magistrate. Attached to the school is a boarding-house and there is a separate building for primary classes inside the City. The trust is running the following educational institutions in the Firozpur City :

(i) H.M. Higher Secondary School, Firozpur City

(ii) H.M. Model School, Firozpur City

Two Primary branches are also attached to it.

(7) **Guru Nanak Education Society, Firozpur.**—This society has also been playing a vital role in the spread of education. Guru Nanak College is being run by this Society at the Firozpur Cantonment.

Besides the above, there are some other societies in the District, running various schools and colleges.

Women's Education :

In the past, the education of women was generally neglected and it made very little progress before the advent of the British. This neglect was mainly due to the apathy of the people towards girls' education owing to social and religious conservatism, the custom of early marriage and domestic duties. The rarity of girls' schools in the District and the want of competent and trained women-teachers further impeded the progress in this sphere. It was in 1883 that the first girls' school in the District, namely the Sikh Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, was started at Firozpur by Bhai Takhat Singh. To begin with, it was an Anglo-vernacular middle school, but was raised to a high school in 1911.

It was after the partition of the country in 1947 that the progress of women's education was accelerated. The various educational societies, viz. Dev Samaj, Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharam Sabha and the Christian Mission established a number of girls' schools at various places. The Dev Samaj College for Women, Firozpur City, was established as early as 1934.

Backwardness with respect to women's education still prevails in the rural areas of the District because the parents do not like to send their young girls to schools and colleges situated far away from their homes. They are also averse to co-education in the schools. However, the introduction of compulsory primary education has mitigated the evil at the primary stage. The people have also become conscious of the benefits of education and have started sending girls to schools. The District has made rapid progress in the field of women's education during the Five-Year Plans.

As on 30 September 1979, there were 14 primary, 10 middle and 14 high schools, wholly for girls in the District. However, the girls have also facilities for studying in co-educational schools, which are numerous. Approximately 95 thousand girls were studying in the schools of the District on 30 September 1979. The college education has also received an impetus among the women of the District. There are 3 colleges separately for women in the District. There is also one training college for women in the Firozpur City. Besides, there are 7 co-educational colleges which also impart higher education to women. Unlike in the previous decade, the education of women is progressing at a good pace in the District.

Education of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

There are no special schools for the education of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the District. They have been offered many inducements by the State Government with respect to education. The Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes, mostly the Rai Sikhs and Mazhbis, inhabiting the rural areas of the District, are still not much enthusiastic about education. However, owing to vigorous propaganda carried on by the teachers and the inspecting staff in the District, and because of the educational facilities provided by the Government, the number of students, belonging to these communities, is on the increase from year to year.

The introduction of free compulsory primary education had a salutary effect on these classes. Education is free up to the middle standard in all Government and state-sponsored schools. Free books, stipends and scholarships are awarded to the students belonging to these classes in all institutions, including colleges under the various schemes sponsored by the State Government and the Union Government. Even the admission fee for different examinations is reimbursed to the students. Besides, books and clothes are given free to the poor and needy students out of the School Red Cross Fund.

The financial assistance given to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the District, during 1973-74 to 1979-80, is given below :

Year	Stipends Rs	Number of students benefited
1973-74	2,07,876	3,650
1974-75	2,29,905	5,568
1975-76	2,26,357	5,786
1976-77	24,94,942	21,812
1977-78	19,22,783	24,720
1978-79	19,58,231	27,983
1979-80	20,50,000	25,852

(Source : District Education Officer, Firozpur)

The following table shows the number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Bacward Classes studying in different schools in the District on 30 September 1979 :

Type of Institution	Number of students belonging to the Scheduled Castes			Number of students belonging to the Backward Classes		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Schools	20,263	13,939	34,202	29,800	21,921	51,721
Middle Schools	1,312	532	1,844	2,989	1,133	4,122
High/Higher Secondary	3,155	1,108	4,263	7,957	2,340	10,297

(Source : District Education Officer, Firozpur)

Medium of Instructions :

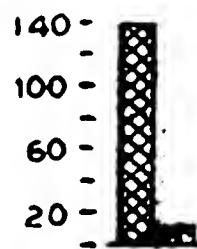
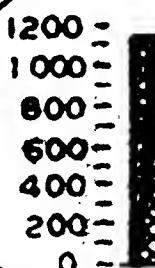
In order to solve the language problem in the State, the Government evolved a formula designed to satisfy all sections of opinion. The Sachar Formula and the PEPSU Formula, which have been in force in the Punjab since 1949 and 1954, respectively were replaced by the Three-Language Formula on 2 July 1969. Under this new formula, Punjabi is taught as the first language and as the medium of instruction in all government schools in the State. The teaching of Hindi is compulsory from the fourth primary class onwards, and English is taught as the third compulsory language from the sixth class. Privately managed schools have been given the option to retain Punjabi or Hindi as the medium of instruction, but such schools as opt for Hindi will be required to teach Punjabi as a compulsory language. The solution, while ensuring compulsory instruction in Punjabi in all the schools in the State, also enables the Hindi-medium schools to continue teaching through that medium. It also ensures that the entire school-going population in the State becomes conversant with both the languages and also with English which is an international language.

Educational Set-up :

Before the reorganization of the educational set-up in 1963, there were separate agencies for the control of schools for boys and girls in the District. The schools for boys up to the middle standard were controlled by the District Inspector of Schools and the middle schools for girls by the District Inspectress of Schools. They were assisted by assistant district inspectors or inspectresses in regard to the control of the primary schools. The high and higher secondary schools for boys and girls in the District were controlled by the Divisional Inspector or Inspectress of Schools Jalandhar, respectively. But with effect from 1 April 1978, the Primary Wing has been separated. Now the District Education Officer is controlling and supervising all middle, high and higher secondary educational institutions both for boys and girls in the District. The primary schools are looked after by the Deputy District Education Officer(Primary) and primary block education officers. The District Education Officer is assisted by three deputy education officers, one of whom is a woman and one Deputy District Education Officer (Primary). The District Education Officer is under the supervisory control of the Circle Education Officer, Jalandhar. He generally consults the Deputy Education Officer (Women) in matters relating to the women-teachers. The Deputy District Education Officer(Primary) deals directly with the Director of Public Instruction (Primary).

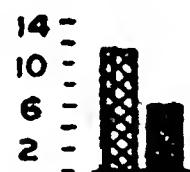
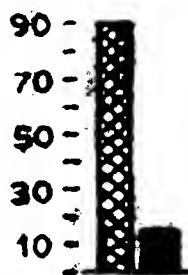
**NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
IN
FIROZPUR DISTRICT**

AS ON 30.9.79



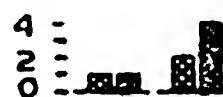
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

MIDDLE SCHOOLS



HIGH SCHOOLS

HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS



COLLEGES

* PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL
INSTITUTIONS

The Deputy District Education Officer (Primary) is assisted by 22 Primary block education officers (including 8 women) in the District, whose area of operation generally consists of one educational block. Each primary block education officer supervises and controls the primary schools in his block. In addition to the above suprevisory staff, an assistant education officer (sports) assists the District Education Officer in the promotion of physical education in the schools.

At the ministerial level, the establishment, accounts, examination and general branches function under the general supervision of a superintendent, who is responsible to the District Education Officer for general administration and for the working of the District Education Office.

(c) General Education

Pre-Primary Schools.—The problem of pre-Primary education is of great interest and importance. It promotes physical, mental, emotional and social growth of children between the ages of three and six. The aim of this education is to create a healthy social environment in which the child may develop his physique and intellect. The main object of such education at this stage is to provide healthy conditions for the young children and to give them social experience rather than formal instruction.

The pre-primary education in the District is not much organized. The people are, however, becoming conscious of the psychological needs of the children. Some voluntary organisations and individuals have started private schools to meet the requirements of small children.

Primary and Basic Schools.—Free and compulsory primary education was started in the Punjab State during the Third-Five -Year Plan for the age group of 6-7 years in 1961-62, and was extended to the age-group of 7-8 years in 1962-63 to that of 8-9 years in 1963-64, to that of 9-10 years in 1964-65, and to that of 10-11 years in 1965-66. The total number of pre-primary/primary/J.B.T. schools in the District was 811 on 15 May, 1973 and the number rose to 1,185 on 30 September, 1979. The number of students on the rolls in all types of primary schools in the District was 1,75,000 on 30 September 1979. The teachers are entrusted with the teaching the classes in all the subjects in the primary schools and in the primary sections of the middle/high/higher secondary schools in the District. The number of students in a section of a primary school is about 30. Most of the primary school teachers are basic-trained. The number of teachers in the primary schools, as it stood on 30 September 1979, was 3,590 (1,620 males and 1,970 females).

Another noteworthy feature of the primary and basic education is that there has been a tremendous increase in the number of women-teachers

during the last 10 years. There were 1,041 female teachers in contrast with 1,781 male teachers in the Firozpur District, including the Moga and Muktsar tahsils on 31 March 1970. However, on 30 September 1979, there were 1970 female teachers in contrast with 1,620 male teachers in the bifurcated district of Firozpur, which does not include Moga and Muktsar tahsils, now forming part of the Faridkot District. This situation also indicates that there has been a considerable expansion in the field of primary education during the last decade.

Secondary Schools.—The growing strength of students in the primary schools, due to the compulsory primary education, automatically gives the enrolment drive to the secondary schools. At the secondary stage, on 30 September, 1979, there were 121 high/higher secondary schools, and 147 middle schools in the District. On 30 September 1979, the number of students studying in classes VI to VIII was 39 thousand, whereas the number of students studying in classes IX to XI was 17 thousand. The above comparison illustrates that more than 50 per cent of the students give up their studies after completing their primary education.

The total number of teachers (both trained and untrained) in all the higher secondary, high and middle schools in the District was 2,805(1,810 males and 995 females) on 30 September 1979. It shows that the ratio of the male teachers to the female teachers is higher in the case of middle/high/higher secondary schools than that in the primary schools, in which the ratio of female teachers is higher than that of male teachers. A teacher qualified to teach a particular subject, takes different classes in that very subject. Generally, there are 50 students in a class, and as soon as the number goes up, the class is divided into sections.

Higher Education.—From the educational point of view, the Firozpur District is comparatively a backward district in the State. Before the foundation of the R.S.D. College, Firozpur, in 1921, there was no college in the District. However, there was a number of primary and secondary schools. The students had to go to Lahore or Delhi for higher education. Subsequently, the Dev Samaj College for Women, Firozpur, was started in 1934. Thereafter, several other colleges offering higher education were started from time to time. The colleges, functioning in 1979-80 are given below:

- 1 R.S.D. College, Firozpur City
- 2 Dev Samaj College for Women, Firozpur City
- 3 Dev Samaj College of Education for Women, Firozpur City
- 4 D.A.V. College for Women, Firozpur Cantonment

- 5 Guru Nanak College , Firozpur Cantonment
- 6 M.R. Collge, Fazilka
- 7 D.A.V. College of Education, Abohar
- 8 D.A.V. College, Abohar
- 9 Gopi Chand Arya Mahila College, Abohar
- 10 Arjan Dass College, Dharamkot
- 11 Government College, Zira

Of these , 4 colleges are meant only for women, whereas the remaining 7 are co-educational institutions. All these colleges are affiliated to the Panjab University, Chandigarh.

(1) R.S.D. College, Ferozepur City.—This college was established as far back as 1921 by the late Rai Sahib Lala Gowardhan Das in the memory of his father, Lala Ram Sukh Dass, an eminent lawyer and Philanthropist of the City. With the opening of this college, a long-felt need of this region was met. It was raised to the degree standard in 1932 and the F.Sc. (Medical and Non-Medical)classes were started in it in 1941. The college imparts instruction in the Pre-University(the Humanities and Science Groups), Pre-Medical, Pre-Engineering, Three-Year Degree Course in B.A. & B.Sc., M.A.(English and History) and evening classes for Pre-University and B.A.(Three-Year Degree Course). The college is housed in a grand building, with a well-equipped library, reading-rooms, laboratories, hostel and extensive playgrounds. It is a co-educational institution and the number of students on its rolls was 1,118 on 31 March 1980.

(2) Dev Samaj College for Women, Firozepur City.—Formerly known as Dev Samaj Girls Higher Secondary School, this institution was started in 1934 in response to the demand from the public. In 1942, it became a full-fledged degree college affiliated to the Panjab University. Science classes were started in 1960. The College owes its establishment and continued growth to the munificence of the Dev Samaj which has devoted itself to the social, moral and spiritual uplift of the people, especially with respect to the women's education extending over the last three quarters of a century. The College imparts instruction in the Pre-University (the Humanities Group and the Science Group); Pre-Medical Pre-Engineering; T.D.C. (B.A. & B.Sc.); B.A.Hons. in English, Philosophy, Hindi Mathematics and Sociology, M.A.in Philosophy, English, History, Hindi and Punjabi.

The College is situated inside the Bansi Gate on the Circular Road in a healthy locality of the City. Housed in a spacious building, it has well-equipped laboratories, a library a reading-room, an auditorium, extensive playgrounds and a very commodious and airy hostel. Arrangements for games and N.C.C. training exist. There were 1,034 students on the rolls in this college on 31 March 1980.

(3) **Guru Nanak College, Firozpur Cantonment.**—This College was founded in 1971 by Guru Nanak Education Society, Firozpur, to commemorate the quincentenary of Guru Nanak Dev. The College is centrally located, being near the Firozpur Cantonment Railway Station. It prepares students in arts and science up to the degree level. There were 320 students on the rolls of this College during 1979-80.

(4) **D.A.V. College for Women, Firozpur Cantonment.**—Owing to the urgency of having a college for girls in the Cantonment area, and encouraged by the generous residents of the area, the Management of the D.A.V. Girls Higher Secondary School, Firozepur Cantonment, came forward to take up this matter. The school started college classes with effect from 1969 on a purely private basis. The College is affiliated to the Punjab University. It prepares students for the Arts Group only. The number of students on the rolls of the College was 185 on 31 March 1980.

(5) **Government College, Zira.**—This College was set up in 1971. It is located at a distance of 2 km from the Zira Town on the road from Zira, leading to the Village of Sunehr. It prepares students in arts from the Pre-University to the degree level. There were 221 students on the rolls of the College during 1980-81.

(6) **Arjan Das College, Dharmkot.**—This College was established in 1971 in the memory of the late Shri Arjan Das, an eminent philanthropist and landlord of Dharmkot. The College was started in 1971 as a college only for women, but it has now become a co-educational institute. During the year of its inception, 42 girls were enrolled. The College prepares the students for the Pre-University & B.A. (Part I, II & III) courses. During 1979-80, there were 356 students on the rolls of the College.

(7) **M.R. College, Fazilka.**—The College was established in 1940 as the result of the great generosity of Lala Munshi Ram Aggarwal of Fazilka. To begin with, it was an intermediate college, teaching only arts subjects. In 1947, it was raised to the degree standard. Co-education was introduced into the College in 1949, F.Sc. (Non-Medical) in 1951, Hons. in Hindi in 1963, Pre-University Medical Group and Pre-Medical Group in 1966 Botany and Zoology for B.Sc., Parts II, III in 1968, and

Honours in English and History in 1969-70. The College has a large building and a decent hostel for men students. It has extensive playgrounds and a library and reading-room. The College had 813 students on its rolls on 31 March 1980.

(8) **D.A.V. College, Abohar.**—The College was founded in April, 1960 by the D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Dehli. It prepares students for the Pre-University and Three-Year Degree Course in Arts and Sciences. The College has both N.C.C., Boys Wing and N.C.C. Girls Wing, consisting of 4 companies, 3 for boys and 1 for girls. The number of students on the rolls of the College was 1,128 on 31 March 1980.

(9) **Gopi Chand Arya Mahila College, Abohar**—The College was started in 1972 in the memory of the late Seth Gopi Chand Ahuja of Abohar, a leading businessman and landlord. It is managed by the D.A.V. College Managing Committee, New Delhi. It prepares students in Arts and Sciences from the Pre-University to the degree level. On 31 March 1980, there were 589 students on the rolls of the College.

(d) Professional and Technical Education

Teachers Training

Institutions for training teachers are a prerequisite for the expansion and spread of education. The following colleges in the District prepare students for the teachers training degrees/diplomas:

Sr. No.	Name of the Institution	Degree/diploma awarded	Duration of course
1	Dev Samaj College of Education for Women, Firozpur	B. Ed. and M. Ed.	1 year each
2	D.A.V. College of Education, Abohar	B. Ed.	1 year

Of these, the first is meant only for women, whereas the other is a co-educational institution. Both these institutes are affiliated to the Panjab University, Chandigarh.

(1) **Dev Samaj College of Education for Women, Firozpur.**—Started in 1943, the college offers training facilities for B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees of the Panjab University. It is the oldest training institution in the State and has rendered meritorious service to the training of women teachers. The College owes its establishment and continued growth to the munificence of the Dev Samaj which has devoted itself to the social, moral and spiritual uplift of the people, especially the promotion of women's education. In 1948, J.S.T.C. was started in the College, but it was later on changed to J.B.T. M.Ed. classes were started in 1969.

The college building comprises commodious classrooms, arts and crafts rooms and laboratories, library, a reading room, and an auditorium-cum-recreational hall. There are extensive playgrounds for basketball, hockey, badminton, throw-ball, etc. in the College. Residential quarters for the staff are also provided on the premises of the College. On 31 March 1980, the number of students for the B.Ed. and M.Ed. classes was 253 and 13 respectively.

(2) **D.A.V. College of Education, Abohar.**—Started in July 1968, the College is affiliated to the Panjab University, Chandigarh, for the B.Ed. course. It provides ample opportunity for extra curricular activities, games, educational tours, hobbies, science practicals and library. There were 245 students on the rolls of the College during 1980.

Medical Education

There is no institution for imparting medical education in the District.

Technical Education

With a view to imparting technical education, the directorate of Technical Education and Industries, Punjab, Chandigarh, runs a number of technical colleges/institutions and industrial training centres/institutes (both for boys and girls) at various places in the State. The technical colleges and institutes prepare students for the degree/diploma courses in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering. In the industrial training centres/institutes, training is given to the students in various trades/crafts, viz. welding, Carpentry, Fitting, Turnery, Blacksmithy, Stenography, Draftsmanship. The girls are imparted training in tailoring, cutting, embroidery, needlework and knitting with hand and machine. Separate industrial training centres for the Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes are also run by the Industries Department, Punjab, Chandigarh.

In 1979-80, the District had the following institutions in the field of engineering and technical education:

- 1 Government Industrial Training Institute, Firozpur
- 2 Government Industrial Training School for Girls, Firozpur

- 3 Sewa Sadan Industrial School for Girls, Firozpur Cantonment
- 4 Government Industrial School for Girls, Dharmkot
- 5 Government Industrial Training School for Girls, Zira
- 6 Government Industrial Training Institute, Fazilka

Of these, 4 schools are meant for girls, whereas the remaining 2 for boys.

(e) Physical Education

In the Punjab, Physical Education is imparted as a compulsory subject in middle and secondary schools. It aims at making a child physically fit, mentally alert and morally sound. Due consideration is, therefore, given to the promotion of Physical Education in schools and colleges. It has been made a part of recreational activities included in the school time-table. It is conducted in primary and middle schools by the J.B.T. teachers, who are given special training in Physical Education. Refresher courses for teachers in Physical Education are also held from time to time. In high and higher secondary schools, physical training instructors and the instructors of the National Discipline scheme impart training in Physical Education. In the colleges, the training is directed and guided by the Physical directors and it is obligatory on every student to attend a certain number of periods in Physical Education.

The Assistant Education Officer for Physical Education, Firozpur, helps the District Education Officer to promote Physical Education in the District. He supervises and guides Physical Education in the schools. Inter school tournaments and special rallies are organized at various places in the District. There is also a provision for medical inspection in the schools, and the students, with physical defects are given the necessary treatment.

Also, the following schemes, under separate departments promote physical education :

- 1 Promotion of Sports and Games by the State Sports Department
- 2 National Cadet Corps
- 3 Bharat Scouts and Guides
- 4 National Service Scheme, sponsored by the Government of India

(1) Promotion of Sports and Games.—The Sports Department was established in 1960 for promoting sports and games in the State. It is represented at the district level by the District Sports Officer, Firozpur, who is under the administrative control of the Divisional Sports Officer, Jalandhar. The District Sports Officer is assisted by 3 sports officers and 5 junior sports officers, besides ministerial and class IV staff.

With the merger of the Sports Department into the Education Department in November 1966, the scope of the activities of the former increased manifold.

The main functions of the District Sports Officer are to assist then Panchayat officer in organizing and running panchayat tournaments at the block level, to establish sports club at block headquarters and in the villages to organize intervillage competitions, to select suitable sites for constructing playgrounds and to discover sports talents from among the villagers and students by holding coaching-camps in schools and tournaments at the district level. The Sports Department runs one coaching-centre at Firozepur and two coaching centres, one each at Abohar and Fazilka.

Besides, there are following associations which promote games and sports in the District :

- 1 The District Olympic Association, Firozpur
- 2 The District Table-Tennis Association, Firozpur
- 3 The District Volleyball Association, Firozpur
- 4 The District Basket-Ball Association, Firozpur
- 5 The District Football Association, Firozpur

(2) National Cadet Corps.—The National Cadet Corps (N.C.C.) is the biggest and the most significant youth movement in the country. This scheme was introduced into the State in 1940 with a view to keeping the students Physically fit and inculcating in them the spirit of service and dignity of labour. The aims of the scheme are to develop character, comradeship, the ideal of service and capacity for leadership in young men and women, to give service training to young men and women so as to stimulate interest in the defence of the country, and to build up a reserve of manpower to enable the Armed Forces to expand rapidly in a national emergency.

The training to the cadets is imparted by the N.C.C. and the A.C.C. and A.C.C. officers who are selected from among the teachers. They are, however, assisted by the permanent instructional staff of the Army.

The cadets are imparted training in military subjects, viz. field craft, rifle-firing, map reading, foot-drill, civil defence, etc. Girls are given training in first aid, operating telephones, telegraph and wireless. Senior and junior division cadets are organized into units, each commanded by a regular Army major or an officer of equivalent rank in the Air Force. The cadets also attend an annual training camp, which lasts for about 10 days.

The number of students on the rolls in the National Cadet Corps in the District on 31 March 1980 was as under :—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Senior Division	.. 400	..	400
Junior Division	.. 619	..	619

(3) Bharat Scouts and Guides.—The Bharat Scouts and Guides is a movement of national, international and universal character. Its aim is to provide the scouts and guides with opportunities for developing those qualities of character which make a 'good citizen' a man of honour, self-discipline and self-reliance, willing and able to serve the community.

The Firozepur District Association of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides came into being in 1920 as separate units. These associations did well in forming scout troops/guide companies in the whole District. Up to 1950, the Girl Guide Association was functioning quite separately. On 7 November 1950, the Association and the Hindustan Scouts Association were amalgamated at the National level.

The District Commissioner, assisted by 2 assistant district commissioners, is in charge of the movement in the District. The District Association is participating in all the scout guide activities at the State as well as at the national level. Two of its schools, viz. the Government High School, Khui Khera and the Government High School, Mamdot won the Prime Minister's shields in the national level competition.

The strength of the scouts and guides in the District on 31 March 1980 was as under :

Scouts	.. 2,600	Guides	1,050
Cubs	.. 800	Bulbuls	560
Scoutmasters	.. 117	Guide captains	98
Cubmasters	.. 81	Flock leaders	62
Lady cubmasters	.. 22		
Group leaders (scouts)	50	Group leaders (Guides)	40

(Source : State Secretary, Bharat Scouts and Guides, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(4) **National Service Scheme.**—The National Service Scheme, originally contemplated as an alternative to the NCC and the NSO, to cover all university students was started during the Fourth Plan as a Pilot scheme by selecting college students on a voluntary and selective basis. Its object is to enable the students to participate, during their studies leading to the first degree, in various programmes of social service and national development to help the community and at the same time to provide them with an opportunity to understand and appreciate the conditions and problems of the community and inculcate in them a sense of social consciousness and dignity of labour, thus leading to a fuller and more balanced development of the personality of students. Participation in the NSS enables the students to discharge at least partially their social obligations towards the community, bring the educated youth closer to the community and enables them to contribute to national development.

Under the programme, any student studying in a college or in a university, who has opted and is selected for the National Service Scheme is expected to remain under the programme for an unbroken period of two years and is required to render social service for a minimum of 120 hours per annum, besides participating in the special camps.

The NSS is being implemented through the universities and colleges and other institutions of higher learning. The States are also participating financially and administratively in the operation of the scheme. The Union Ministry of Education and Culture provides policy guidance, co-ordination, and finances on a sharing basis.

This programme was launched in the Firozpur District during 1970-71. At present, there are 1,225 NSS volunteers in the colleges of the District. In the colleges, this programme is carried on by programme officers under the supervision and control of the respective Principals of the colleges.

(f) Cultivation of Fine Arts

There is no regular institution in the District for imparting training in music, dancing, etc. However, as a part of their extra-curricular activities, some girls institutions provide facilities for the cultivation of fine arts—Music (Vocal and Instrumental), Dancing, Painting, Drawing, Flower-making, etc.

(g) Oriental Schools and Colleges

No such institution exists in the District.

(h) Education for the Handicapped

The Home for the Blind at Firozpur was established in December 1956. It has made all-round progress in various activities, and has developed into a full-fledged institute in the State. It is managed by the District Council for the Welfare of the Handicapped, with the Deputy Commissioner as its Chairman. It imparts training in music (vocal and instrumental), crafts (cane and bamboo works, cycle basket-making, soap-making), breilly, and handloom-weaving. Arrangements are also made for higher education in colleges. The main object of the institution is the uplift and rehabilitation of the blind. The number of the students varies from 45 to 50.

This institution is affiliated to the National Association for the Blind, Bombay, and the District Red Cross Society, Firozpur. Admission is open to the blind in the age-group of 6—11 years, irrespective of caste, colour and creed. The inmates are given free training, boarding, lodging, clothing, medicines, raw materials and the welfare amenities during their training period. The existing number of the inmates is 40 (39 boys and 1 girl) belonging to various States.

For the rehabilitation of the blind, the management has taken steps to provide the more trained among them with work by expanding the existing workshop. The workers are paid wages according to the market rates and are provided with free board, lodging, clothing, etc. The Home for the Blind is mainly financed by contributions from the local bodies, the District Red Cross Society, the District Relief-Fund Committee, the grant from the Central Social-Welfare Board, the donations from the Public and from the sale of articles made by the inmates of the Home.

(i) Adult Literacy, Social Education and Measures for the Diffusion of Culture among the masses.

A scheme of Social (Adult) Education for spreading literacy and diffusing culture among the masses was introduced into the District in October, 1968. It is organized by the Circle Social-Education Officer, Jullundur Circle, Jullundur, who is under the overall charge of the Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, Chandigarh.

The work in the field is organized and supervised by the Supervisor, Social Education Mobile Squad. The female centres function during daytime, whereas the male centres work after dusk. The literary work

at these centres envisages knowledge of 3 R's (reading, writing and arithmetic) up to the second or third primary standard, besides such aspects of social education, as current affairs, agriculture, general science, health, hygiene, and good citizenship. The female centres invariably cater for craft work related to sewing and embroidering, which are designed to serve as a focal point of attraction for the illiterate adults.

Social education is given free at these centres and even books are supplied free of cost to the adults. There is also a mobile cinema unit, which occasionally arranges film shows in the villages where such centres are located. On 31 March 1980, there were 30 Social-education centres (15 for males and 15 for females) in the District. These centres are looked after by supervisors, who function under the Circle Social Education Officer, Jalandhar Circle, Jalandhar.

In addition, a vigorous programme, called the Rural Functional Literacy Project, has been launched in the District with effect from 1980-81. Under this scheme, 300 centres are to be started. The scheme is looked after by a Project Officer and 10 supervisors. The objective of this scheme is to seek the upliftment of the rural people in economic and social spheres together with the spreading of literacy among them.

(j) Cultural and Literary Societies and Periodicals Cultural Societies.

Among the cultural societies functioning in the District, mention may be made of the following :—

(1) **Tagore Kala Kendar, Firozpur.**—Started in 1944 in the H.M. Higher Secondary School, Firozpur City, it aims at providing the students with healthy atmosphere for developing their personality. The activities of this society include speeches, debates, fancy dress, folk-dances and action songs, etc.

(2) **Adarsh Dramatic Club, Firozpur.**—Started in 1958 in the Hindu Girls Higher Secondary School, Firozpur City, it aims at providing the students with self-expression, aesthetic sense and other qualities of expression. The activities of this society comprise speeches, debates, plays, songs, dances, etc.

(3) **Kala Kendra Dramatic Club, Firozpur Cantorment.**—Started in 1958 in the Decent Children Modern School, Firozpur Cantorment, it aims at inculcating artistic tastes in the students, in particular, and in the public, in general. It prepares students for the Allahabad Sangeet Samiti Examination. The special features of the Club are dramas, plays, music and dance.

(4) Mitra Kala Mandal, Firozpur.—Started in 1950 in the S.D. Higher Secondary School, Firozepur City, its object is to revive the ancient Indian culture and to create national feelings in the minds of children.

Besides the above, the following cultural societies exist in the District. The schools and colleges also draw up interesting cultural programmes and participate in the national functions :

- 1 Firozpur Dramatic Club, Firozpur
- 2 Ram Natak Dramatic Club, Firozpur
- 3 Ram Leela Natak, Anaj Mandi, Firozepur
- 4 Loco-Shed Dramatic Club, Firozpur
- 5 Newton Hospital Dramatic Club, Firozpur
- 6 Basti Tankanwali Dramatic Club, Firozpur
- 7 Bazam-i-Adab, Firozpur
- 8 Cantonment Dramatic Club, Firozpur
- 9 Naween Sahitya Sabha, Basti Tankanwali, Firozpur
- 10 Azad Dramatic Club, Firozpur Cantonment

Literary Societies

Among the literary societies functioning in the District, the following deserve mention :

(1) Punjabi Likhari Sahitya Sabha, Firozpur.—Established in 1951, it aims at encouraging the writing of stories, poems, essays, etc. Its meetings are conducted regularly and rich and constructive criticism is offered to the members with respect to their write-ups. The society is affiliated to the Kendari Likhari Sabha (Regd.), Jalandhar.

(2) Sahitya-Dhara, Alamwala.—Established in 1967, this society aims at publishing literary works of high merit produced by young writers. It is making a useful contribution to the development of literature and language.

Besides the above societies, the following literary societies are contributing much to the promotion and encouragement of literary activities in the District :—

- 1 Punjabi Sahitya Sabha, Abohar
- 2 Hindi Sahitya Sadan, Abohar

- 3 Sahitya Sangam, Abohar
- 4 Punjabi Sahitya Sabha, Talwandi Bhai
- 5 Punjabi Sahitya Sabha, Kot Isa Khan
- 6 Sahitya Sabha, Zira
- 7 Sahitya Sabha, Jalalabad

Periodicals

For particulars regarding the periodicals, etc. published in the District, refer to pages of Chapter XVIII, 'Public Life and Voluntary Social Service Organizations.'

(k) Libraries

Libraries play a vital role in spreading education among the masses both in urban and rural areas. With a view to co-ordinating and rationalizing the existing library facilities and providing more facilities for the proper functioning of libraries and reading-rooms run by various Government departments and local bodies, the Punjab Government set up in 1950 a central body called the 'Central Library Committee', in which the Punjab Library Association is also represented by its President. The Committee did excellent work in implementing the plan, known as the Randhawa Plan, which envisaged the setting up of new libraries in beautiful surroundings and furnishing them with well-designed furniture, picture and paintings, concerning the Punjab and its people. Under this scheme, new public libraries were started in urban and rural areas of the State. These are doing useful service to the public by spreading education among them.

The following types of libraries are functioning in the District :

The District Library, Firozpur

The District Library, Firozpur, was set up in December 1979. It has provision for 60 seats in its reading-rooms and 20 seats for the separate Children Section. It has a lot of reference books to give adequate reference service to its readers. It has also a good collection for its children Section. The membership which is open to adults as well as to children has risen to 400 during this short period.

Panchayat Libraries.—Generally, every Panchayat in the District maintains a small library for the promotion of education and general knowledge among the masses in the rural areas.

Municipal and Cantonment Board Libraries.—All the municipalities in the District, viz. Firozpur, Guru Har Sahai, Talwandi Bhai, Zira, Dharamkot, Fazilka, Abohar, and Jalalabad, maintain libraries and reading-rooms for public use. Out of them, the Mahesh Chand Memorial Municipal Library, Firozpur, is quite old. It was established in 1934 by Dr. Sadhu Chand Vineyek in the memory of his father. It has a good collection of books on various subjects.

Established in 1956, the Cantonment Board Library, Firozpur Cantonment also has a large number of books on various subjects.

School and College Libraries.—All the high/higher secondary schools and colleges in the District have their own libraries meant for the use of students and teachers.

Badri Parshad Library, Firozpur Cantonment.—Started by Badri Parshad in 1930, the Library is rendering very useful service to the public. It has a good deal of books on various subjects.

Jain Library, Firozpur Cantonment.—Started in 1946, it is managed by the local Jain Mandir Prabandhak Committee. It contains books mostly on Jainism.

Jain Library, Zira.—Established in 1958, it contains books on Jainism and ancient Indian literature.

Guru Singh Sabha Library, Abohar.—Established in 1946, it contains books, mostly on Sikh history and religion.

Besides the above libraries, the Sukhmani Sewa Sabha Society, Firozpur Cantonment maintains a library. The Public Library Trust, village of Shahzadi (Firozpur Tahsil) and Shahid Gurdas Ram Memorial Library, Zira also cater for the needs of the reading public, in general.

CHAPTER XVI

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Public Health and Medical Facilities in Early Times

In early times, medicines for different diseases were prepared from herbs. In course of time, the general use of herbal medicines developed into the Ayurvedic system of medicine. With the advent of Muslims, the Unani system was also introduced into the country and was popularized. So both these systems existed side by side. However, during the medieval period, the Ayurvedic System declined to some extent because of the official patronage given to the Unani System, with the result that the latter became more popular in the urban areas, whereas the Ayurvedic System continued to develop in the rural areas. The Allopathic System was introduced into the country with the advent of the British in the cis-Satluj territory early in the nineteenth century.

At present, all the three systems of medicine, viz. Ayurveda, Unani and Allopathy are practised. Of these, Allopathy is much more popular on account of Government patronage enjoyed by it during the past more than a century and a half. Of late, Homoeopathy is also becoming popular.

With the spread of education and scientific treatment of human ills coming within the reach of the people, the methods of faith-cure and quackery are practised by fewer people now. The Homoeopathy is practised by a few practitioners in towns. The Ayurvedic and Unani systems are, however, liked by the people because of the simpler and familiar medicines prescribed. The Government is according good recognition to these systems and the number of Ayurvedic Dispensaries in the District increased from one in 1953-54 to 18 in 1960-61 and 34 in 1979-80, each in the charge of a *vaid*, and under the direct administrative control of the Director of Ayurveda, Punjab. Besides there were 3 Unani Dispensaries in the District in 1979-80.

On 31 March 1980, there were 119 Allopathic Institutions in the District, comprising 22 hospitals (20 hospitals and 2 tuberculosis clinics), 9 primary health centres, 85 subsidiary health centres and 3 dispensaries. Out of these institutions, 110 were managed by the State Government, 7 were State special and 2 were private, besides some others. These institutions were provided with 1,376 beds (711 for males and 665 for females), out of which 1,089 were managed by the Government, and 287 by private bodies and others. During 1979, the number of patients treated was 7,22,477, comprising 14,403 indoor and 7,08,074 outdoor.

The number of registered medical and para-medical personnel in the District in 1979 was 285 doctors, 348 midwives, 489 nurses and 1,204 *dais*.

Because of the dry climate, healthy environmental conditions and comparatively good income of the people in the District, the standard of health is good.

(b) Vital Statistics

The registration of vital statistics is compulsory. In the rural areas, the *chowkidars* maintain the birth-and-death registers. Similarly, these necessary records are maintained by the municipalities in the urban areas. In addition to many other advantages, the procedure provides a dependable record of the growth of population and, at the same time, helps to visualize the scope of measures to be taken to check the mortality-rate and also to devise ways and means to use family-welfare measures. The Civil Surgeon, Firozpur, compiles these data. The birth-rate, the death-rate, and the rate of infantile mortality per thousand per annum, in the Firozpur District, during 1972—1980, are given below :

Year (Calendar year)	Birth-rate per thousand of population	Death-rate per thousand of population	Infantile mortality rate of age per thousand live births
1972	26·89	6·34	51·09
1973	25·32	5·45	46·49
1974	27·08	6·75	39·02
1975	27·08	6·52	39·34
1976	24·33	6·60	60·82
1977	25·39	6·58	44·37
1978	25·02	6·73	38·36
1979	24·15	6·17	35·25
1980	23·50	5·84	31·95

(Source : Civil Surgeon, Firozpur)

Important Causes of Mortality.—The important causes of mortality in the District are fever, dysentery, respiratory diseases and injuries. The table included in Appendix I, page 387, gives statistics regarding some of the important causes of deaths.

(c) Diseases Common to the District

(i) Fevers.—Fevers are the main cause of deaths. These includes ordinary fevers, typhoid, influenza and other seasonal fevers, including malaria. These fevers are the result of infections, unhealthy living and imbalanced diet, leading to low resistance. The causes of these fevers have become almost chronic and it is extremely difficult to eradicate them. In the past, these fevers were cured with various medicines, including quinine. But, at present, their place has been taken by sulpha-drugs and antibiotics which have been found to be very effective. Healthy living and better diet would lesson to a considerable extent the incidence of general types of fevers. Malaria has been brought under control with D.D.T. sprays used to destroy mosquitoes.

(ii) Respiratory Diseases.—Respiratory diseases, which are next in importance only to fevers, are also responsible for deaths in the District. These are caused by different types of smokes, fumes, vapours of chemical gases released by the burning of charcoal, coke, etc. These gases pollute the surrounding atmosphere all the time, thus affecting the health of the people. Smoke irritates the eyes, the throat and the lungs constantly. The insanitary conditions in the slums also cause the outbreaks of these diseases.

In order to check the spread of such diseases, the Factories Act, 1948, lays down that there should be a proper disposal of gases entering the atmosphere and any harmful effluents should be removed to far-off places, where they do not adversely affect the health of the people.

Proper diagnostic facilities available in dispensaries and at the public-health centres, hospitals, provision of institutional facilities, domiciliary treatment, and follow-up of cases from diseases, such as tuberculosis and chronic bronchitis, have brought down the mortality figures considerably.

(iii) Malaria.—A few decades back, malaria was without a rival among the diseases afflicting mankind. In India, hardly any aspect of life—social, agricultural and industrial—remained unaffected by its ravages. The epidemic of 1908 in the Punjab was of a great magnitude and a large number of people perished.

The National Malaria-Control Programme was started in the State in 1953 and a number of malaria-control units were established. One such unit was established in the Firozpur District in the same year to undertake the malaria-control operations. This programme continued for five years, reducing the number of malaria cases considerably.

After the decision of the Government of India, on 5 December 1957 to eradicate malaria from whole of the country, the National Malaria-Control Programme was switched over to the National Malaria-Eradication Programme (N.M.E.P.) during 1958. Under it, a number of units, including the one in the Firozpur District, were started. For this purpose, the State was divided into two zones, viz. Patiala and Jullundur. The Firozpur District falls in the Patiala zone.

Owing to the occurrence of positive cases and focal outbreaks, some areas of the State were temporarily reverted to the attack phase for spraying in 1968 and 1969. This step led to the rephasing of the programme in the State. Most of the area, reverted to the attack phase, was from the districts of Patiala, Firozpur, Sangrur and Bathinda.

The claim made in 1965 that the mosquito menace had been eradicated from the country was only partially true. There were several pockets in the country where no real break-through had yet been achieved. In some other areas as well, there was slide-back because of the lack of the follow-up measures or because of the non-supply of insecticides.

The campaign, known as the Urban Malaria Scheme has, thus, been launched, for it is generally recognized that if the mosquito menace has become serious again, it is partly because the civic bodies in large parts of the country have not played their part in the anti-malaria drive which was launched in 1958. The National Malaria-Eradication Programme launched with the active support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was confined mainly to the rural areas, whereas the local bodies in the urban areas were instructed to implement the malaria-control measures through their own efforts. The local bodies showed little enthusiasm for launching this campaign, with the result that the Director of the National Malaria-Eradication Programme complained in 1970 that malaria had begun to spread to the rural areas from the towns.

The Malaria Department is taking healthy steps to eradicate malaria from the District. From 1977 to 31 March 1980, as many as 7,95,544 slides with blood smears were collected and examined. In the same period, 7,06,720 houses in 4,360 villages were sprayed and 3,46,849 kg. of BHC was used.

(iv) **Communicable Diseases.**—The communicable diseases are plague, cholera, smallpox, etc. A brief reference to each of these, with particular reference to the District is made below :

Plague

Plague, at present non-existent, was the most-feared-of pestilences. Ever since it broke out in 1897, it had never been totally eliminated from the State till 1937. Since the partition (1947), as in other districts of the State, this pestilence has not been noticed in Firozpur, because of the extensive and repeated use of DDT and Gammexane in the treatment of rat burrows and flea harborages in the endemic areas. Vigilance is also maintained to the utmost in order to detect plague among rats or in the human population and every possible precaution is taken to apply preventive measures, including the anti-plague inoculation, wherever human cases occur.

Cholera

It is an epidemic, generally associated with mass gatherings, especially at the Kumbh Fair at Hardwar and at solar-eclipse fairs at Kurukshetra where pilgrims collect in large numbers. This disease used to spread when the pilgrims carrying infection returned home.

The Health Department makes special arrangements to combat epidemics on such occasions. All the dispensaries are directed to inoculate the persons visiting the *melas*. Besides, medical-inspection posts are established at all the important railway or road stations where strict vigilance and supervision are exercised. At places where *melas* are held, special conservancy arrangements, provision of safe water-supply, satisfactory collection and removal of night-soil are made. Specific arrangements to attend on cases of infectious diseases and rendering medical aid to the pilgrims are also made.

Small-Pox

Despite persistent efforts, the District has never been free from smallpox. However, owing to the existence of increased facilities for vaccination and re-vaccination, there has been a remarkable reduction in the incidence of this disease. The incidence of this disease and the details of preventive measures taken in the district against it during 1961 to 1970 are given in Appendix II at page 388.

(v) **Tuberculosis.**—This disease is a national problem and is required to be met at the national level. To root it out, emphasis is being laid on the preventive side of the control. The B.C.G. Programme has now been

integrated with the other health activities of the primary health units/centres. The B.C.G. vaccination is a preventive measure against tuberculosis. The measure was taken up in the Punjab in 1949. At that time, mobile B.C.G. teams were set up. In 1951, a mass B.C.G. vaccination campaign was started in the entire State. Since 1959, a scheme has been introduced to fix up teams at the district level and, under this scheme, the Firozpur District was taken up in April, 1962. At present, there are two anti-tuberculosis clinics, one at Firozpur and the other at Abohar.

(d) Medical and Public Health Services

Previously, medical services were divided into two wings, viz. medical and health. The District Medical Officer was responsible for the functioning of hospitals and dispensaries, and medical and surgical work in the District, besides being the medico-legal expert of the Government. The District Medical and Health Officer was in charge of the health wing and was responsible for sanitation, disease-prevention and health-promotion services in the District. He was also to advise the municipalities on public-health matters. Both the wings worked under the administrative control of the Director, Health Services, Punjab. In April, 1964, these two wings were merged. Under the new arrangement, the Civil Surgeon is in charge of both the medical and health services in the District. The Medical Officer, employed by the *zila parishad*, has also been put under his control. The staff employed by the *zila parishad*, works under the Civil Surgeon, but they draw their salaries from the *zila parishad*. This system has been enforced for the smooth and efficient working of medical and health services.

In the District, the Civil Surgeon is assisted by 16 medical officers (Class I), 105 medical Officers (Class II), 151 nurses, 140 midwives and auxiliary nurses-midwives, 47 nurse *dais*, 24 technicians and radiographers, 115 dispensers, 40 senior malaria inspectors and sanitary inspectors, 38 field workers, 9 block extension educators, 102 basic health workers, 31 lady health workers, etc. besides ministerial staff and miscellaneous Class IV staff.

On the health side, the Malaria Officer, vaccinators and medical officers (in charge of dispensaries) also assist the Civil Surgeon. Similar functions are performed by the *zila parishad*. The municipalities also assist the Civil Surgeon in the Public health field. In order to check the adulteration of foodstuffs, the Civil Surgeon has delegated powers to the medical officers of hospitals/dispensaries. They can take samples of foodstuffs.

Hospitals, Primary Health Centres, Dispensaries, etc.

The expenditure incurred by the State Government on Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani hospitals, health centres, dispensaries and other health services in the District in 1979-80 was Rs 97,53,135. All the allopathic medical institutions are under the control of the Civil Surgeon, Firozpur. The Ayurvedic and Unani institutions are under the control of the District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer, Firozpur.

Allopathic Medical Institutions.—On 31 March 1980, there were 119 medical institutions (allopathic) in the District. Their tahsil-wise and area-wise break-up is given below :—

Tahsil/District	Total	Rural	Urban
Firozpur Tahsil	46	34	12
Zira Tahsil	31	30	1
Fazilka Tahsil	42	36	6
Firozpur District	119	100	19

(*Directory of Medical Institutions in Punjab State, 1980, pp 26—30*)

The management-wise break-up of the above 119 medical institutions (allopathic) is : 110 State public, 7 State special and 2 private non-aided. The list of hospitals, primary health centres, subsidiary health centres and dispensaries in the District is given in Appendix III on page 389—395.

The particulars regarding the family welfare units/clinics and maternity and child health centres are given in Appendixes IV and V on pages 396 and 397, respectively.

Ayurvedic and Unani Medical Institutions.—The indigenous systems of medicine, viz. Ayurvedic and Unani, are quite cheap and suit the local needs. The medicines used have no adverse after-effects. However, owing to the lack of patronage by the British, these systems lost their popularity. After independence, the Government devised means to popularise them again.

On 31 March 1980, there were 33 Ayurvedic, 1 Homoeopathic and 3 Unani medical institutions in the District. Their tehsil-wise and area-wise break-up is given below :

Tahsil/District	Total	Rural	Urban
Firozpur Tahsil	12	11	1
Zira Tahsil	6	6	..
Fazilka Tahsil	19	19	..
Firozpur District	37	36	1

(Source : District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer, Firozpur)

All these institutions are managed by the Government. Their detailed list is given in Appendix VI on pages 398-399.

Blood Banks

The use of blood as a therapeutic measure is on the increase in all branches of medicine and surgery. There are two blood banks in the District at the Civil Hospital, Firozpur and at the Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment. The work done by them with respect to the collection and transfusion of blood is given in Appendix VII on page 400.

Prevention of Adulteration of Foodstuffs

To prevent the adulteration of foodstuffs, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act was passed in 1954. It replaced the Punjab Pure Food Act of 1929. Under the Act, samples are taken by the staff appointed for the purpose and the duly sealed samples are sent to the Food and Health Laboratory at Chandigarh for analysis. The persons whose samples are not found up to the mark are challaned.

The work done under the Act is detailed in Appendix VIII on page 401.

(e) Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes

In the Firozpur District, there is only one private hospital, viz. Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment, with a branch at

Guru Har Sahai. A brief account of the Hospital is as under :—

Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment.—The Hospital was established in 1894 by Dr. Frances Newton, wife of Rev. Dr. Frances Newton. To begin with, the Hospital was meant only for women and children. Later on, male patients also began to be attended on. Under Dorothy Ferris, it grew up to become a 300 beds (89 beds for males, 142 beds for females, 25 beds for children and 44 beds for infants) general hospital. During 1980, the number of indoor and outdoor patients was 6,432 (1,698 males, 2,702 females and 1,942 children) and 37,791 (10,887 males, 17,901 females and 9,003 children, respectively).

The staff comprises of 27 full-time and 2 part-time doctors (specialists), 12 house surgeons, 7 interns, 78 nurses including sisters, student-nurses, etc., 10 paramedicals and 95 others.

The Hospital is equipped with special departments. It runs a school of nursing, a school for laboratory technicians, and a blood bank. It has an intensive care unit, which has all types of equipment needed for post-operative emergency care.

This hospital has also its 10 bed branch at Guru Har Sahai, known as D.L. Ferris Hospital. Its doctors and nurses attend on men, women and children coming there as outdoor and indoor patients.

(f) Medical and Public Health Educational Institutions

There is no medical and public health educational institution in the District. However, the Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment, runs a school of nursing and a school for laboratory technicians on its own premises.

(g) Sanitation

(i) Public Health and Sanitation in the Urban Areas.—Before 1924, there were a few vaccinators in the District under the control of the Civil Surgeon, Firozpur. These vaccinators also looked after sanitation, in addition to performing vaccinations. In 1929, a separate health branch was established, and under it a sanitary inspector and a few naib-darogas were posted at the District Headquarters to look after sanitation. This arrangement continued till 1944, when the sanitary inspectors, assisted by sanitary supervisors and sanitary beldars, were appointed at the tahsil level.

Since the launching of the Five-Year Plans and the Community Development Programme, primary health units or centres have been set

up to look after sanitation also in the rural areas. In the urban areas, the municipal committees attend to sanitation.

(ii) **Rural Sanitation and Water-supply.**—Previously, there was no regular body in the villages to look after the health of the people. After Independence in 1947, the sanitary *beldars* were re-designated as *swasthya sahaiks*, of whom a few were posted in each district. Their main duty was to improve the village sanitation along with certain other duties, such as anti-plague and anti-cholera measures.

Since the launching of the First Five-Year Plan (1951—56), the Community Development Organisation and primary health units/centres have been set up. The staff, posted in these organisations, were entrusted mainly with the work of sanitation. Much improvement has, therefore, been made in this field. *Gramseviks* and *gram sevikas*, under the block development and *panchayat officers*, and the staff of the Health Department, such as sanitary inspectors, lady health visitors, along with the medical officers, under the guidance of the Civil Surgeon, attached to the health units or centres, have been paying necessary attention to the improvement of rural sanitation.

Health and sanitation cover the opening of new hospitals, primary health centres, the construction of drains, dry latrines and smokeless *chullahs*, the paving of streets, the installation of hand-pumps and the construction of walls for drinking water.

Water-Supply

Out of the total number of 1,084 villages in the District, water scarcity exists in as many as 354. The problem of water-supply is being solved through the efforts of the Block Development Agency and the Health Department. They provide grants for the water-supply schemes under which a fairly large number of hand-pumps have been installed. By March, 1979, the water-supply schemes had been started in 126 villages.

The water in the District has a high content of fluorid, resulting in damage to teeth, bones and the spine.

APPENDIX I
Causes of, and specific death-rates with respect to different diseases per thousand of population in the Firozpur District - 1972-80
(Vide page 379)

Year (Calendar year)	Cholera	Smallpox	Plague	Fevers	Dysentery and diarrhoea	Respiratory Diseases	Injuries	Other Causes
1972	2.33	0.87	1.02	0.55
1973	2.03	0.85	0.98	0.52
1974	2.42	0.93	1.04	0.58
1975	2.38	0.90	1.02	0.56
1976	2.32	0.95	1.05	0.55
1977	2.35	0.92	1.03	0.58
1978	2.30	0.97	1.05	0.60
1979	2.25	0.90	1.03	0.57
1980

Source : (Civil Surgeon, Firozpur)

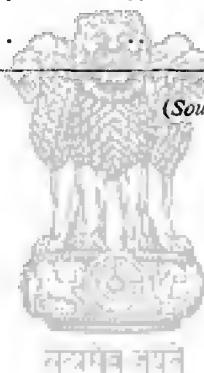
APPENDIX II

(Vide page 381)

Incidence of smallpox and preventive measures taken against it in the Firozpur District,
1972 to 1980

Year (Calendar year)		Number of cases	Number of Deaths	Primary vaccinations	Re-vaccinations
1972	..	2	1	64,288	4,48,566
1973	..	..	..	38,741	2,51,896
1974	..	1	..	39,604	2,34,723
1975	..	..	..	38,711	2,12,618
1976	..	..	..	46,474	2,20,498
1977	..	..	..	40,599	1,71,534
1978	..	..	..	38,034	1,54,608
1979	..	..	..	38,516	1,12,549
1980	..	..	..	30,221	69,087

(Source: Civil Surgeon, Firozepur)



APPENDIX III

(Vide page 383)

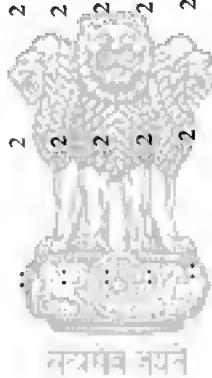
Hospitals Primary Health Centres and dispensaries in the Firozpur District, as on 31 March 1980

Sr. No.	Name and location	Number of beds		Rural/ Urban	Type of Management	Area of location	Tehsil	Block
		Male	Female					
1	Civil Hospital, Firozpur	..	..	64	36	Urban	State public	Firozpur
2	Mobile Eye Hospital, Firozpur	..	..	..	Do	Do	Do	Do
3	T. B. Clinic, Firozpur	..	..	4	4	Do	Do	Do
4	Central Jail Hospital, Firozpur	..	..	30	..	Do	State special	Do
5	Canal Dispensary, Firozpur	..	..	..	..	Do	Do	Do
6	Cantonment General Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment	..	..	14	18	Do	Do	Do
7	Police Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment	..	..	13	..	Do	Do	Do
8	Railway Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment	..	..	50	42	Do	Do	Do
9	Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment	..	..	100	175	Do	Private aided	Do
10	Nebru Civil Hospital, Abohar	..	..	31	25	Do	State Public	Fazilka
11	Government Maternity Hospital Abohar	..	..	..	12	Do	Do	Abolar
12	T. B. Clinic, Abohar	..	..	4	4	Do	Do	Do
13	E.S.I. Dispensary, Abohar	..	..	..	..	Do	Do	Do
14	Civil Hospital, Fazilka	..	..	44	12	Do	Do	Fazilka
15	Rural Hospital, Mamdot	15	15	Rural	Do	Firozpur
16	Primary Health Centre, Mamdot	Do	Do	Do

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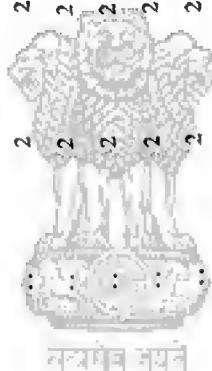
Sr. No.	Name and location	Number of beds		Rural/ Urban	Type of management	Area of location	
		Male	Female			Tahsil	Block
17	Subsidiary Health Centre, Arifke	..	2	2	Rural	State Public	Firozpur
18	Subsidiary Health Centre, Ghatti Rajoke	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
19	Subsidiary Health Centre, Katora	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
20	Subsidiary Health Centre, Jhok Harihar	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
21	Subsidiary Health Centre, Khai Phame	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
22	Subsidiary Health Centre, Mamdot	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
23	Subsidiary Health Centre, Mahalani	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
24	Subsidiary Health Centre, Nurpur Sethan	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
25	Subsidiary Health Centre, Ruknewala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
26	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sher Khan Wala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
27	Subsidiary Health Centre, Tibbi Khurd	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
28	Rural Hospital, Mudki	..	15	10	Do	Do	Ghali Khurd
29	Primary Health Centre, Ferozeshah	..	4	4	Do	Do	Do
30	Subsidiary Health Centre, Talwandi Bhai	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
31	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kailash	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
32	Subsidiary Health Centre, Lalleh	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
33	Subsidiary Health Centre, Malwal	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
34	Subsidiary Health Centre, Mana Singh Wala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do

35	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sadhu Singh wala	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
36	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sandha Hasham	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
37	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sayanwala	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
38	Shakoor	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
39	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sodhi Nagar	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
40	Subsidiary Health Centre, Salhan	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
41	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sher Singh Wala	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
42	Primary Health Centre, Guru Har Sahai	..	4	4	4	Urban	Do	Do	Do
43	Subsidiary Health Centre, Guru Har Sahai	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
44	Subsidiary Health Centre Chak Someanwala	..	2	2	2	Rural	Do	Do	Do
45	Subsidiary Health Centre Jiwian Arain	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
46	Subsidiary Health Centre Koer Singh Wala	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
47	Subsidiary Health Centre, Parje Keuttar	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
48	Subsidiary Health Centre Raujat Gari	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
49	Subsidiary Health Centre, Sohan Garh	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
50	Subsidiary Health Centre, Wasal Mohanke	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
51	Frances Newton Dispensary, Guru Har Sahai	..	..	..	12	Urban Private Non- aided State Public	Fazilka	Do	Do
52	Civil Hospital, Jalalabad	..	16	8	Do	Do	Do	Do	Jalalabad
53	Rural Hospital, Jandwala Bhime Shah	..	..	..	15	Rural	Do	Do	Do
54	Primary Health Centre, Jandwala Bhime Shah	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
55	Subsidiary Health Centre, Chak Khare Ke	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do



Sr. No.	Name and location	Number of beds		Rural/ Urban	Type of management	Area of location	
		Male	Female			Taluk	Block
56	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kirian Wala	..	2	2	Rural	Rate Public	Pazlka
57	Subsidiary Health Centre, Ledhuika	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
58	Subsidiary Health Centre, Ladhawal Uttar	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
59	Subsidiary Health Centre, Lamochar Kalan	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
60	Primary Health Centre, Sittoguno	..	4	4	Do	Do	Abohar
61	Subsidiary Health Centre, Baluana	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
62	Subsidiary Health Centre, Dharangwala	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
63	Subsidiary Health Centre, Jumianwali	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
64	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kandhwala Amarkot	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
65	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kullar	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
66	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kundal	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
67	Subsidiary Health Centre, Malookpur	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
68	Subsidiary Health Centre, Ramgarh	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
69	Subsidiary Health Centre, Roherianwali	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
70	Subsidiary Health Centre, Rukanpur/Khui Khera	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do
71	Rural Hospital , Dhabwala Kalan	..	15	15	Do	Do	Fazlka
72	Primary Health Centre, Dhabwala Kalan	..	..	Do	Do	Do	Do
73	Subsidiary Health Centre. Islamwala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do

74	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kamalwala	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
75	Subsidiary Health Centre, Karni Khera	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
76	Rural Hospital, Killanwali	..	15	10	Do	Do	Do	Khuijan Sarwar
77	Rural Hospital Patij Kosi	..	15	10	Do	Do	Do	Do
78	Primary Health Centre Khui Khera	..	4	4	4	Do	Do	Do
79	Subsidiary Health Centre, Dewan Khera	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
80	Subsidiary Health Centre, Dalmir Khera	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
81	Subsidiary Health Centre, Gitalu	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
82	Subsidiary Health Centre, Jandwala Mira Sangta	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
83	Subsidiary Health Centre, KheoWali Dhab	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
84	Subsidiary Health Centre, Khuijan Sarwar	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
85	Subsidiary Health Centre, Maujgarh	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
86	Subsidiary Health Centre, Paniwala Mahla	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
87	Subsidiary Health Centre, Rupnagar	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
88	Subsidiary Health Centre, Waryam Khera	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
89	Civil Hospital, Zira	..	25	25	Urban	Do	Zira	Do
90	Rural Hospital, Bhinder Kalan	..	15	10	Rural	Do	Do	Do
91	Rural Hospital, Kassana	..	15	15	Do	Do	Do	Do
92	Primary Health Centre, Kasso	..	..	..	Do	Do	Do	Do
93	Subsidiary Health Centre, Bahrwali	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do
94	Subsidiary Health Centre, Ban Khandi	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do



Sr. No.	Name and location	Number of beds		Rural/ Urban	Type of management	Area of location	Taluk	Block	Zira	Zira
		Male	Female							
95	Subsidiary Health Centre, Behak Gujran	..	2	2	Rural	State Public	Zira	Zira	Zira	Zira
96	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kassoana	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
97	Subsidiary Health Centre, Khosa Dal Singh	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
98	Subsidiary Health Centre, Khosa Pandhir	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
99	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kundiwala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
100	Subsidiary Health Centre, Longo Deva	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
101	Subsidiary Health Centre, Mallamwala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
102	Subsidiary Health Centre, Malsian	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
103	Subsidiary Health Centre, Pode Jalla Wala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
104	Subsidiary Health Centre, Thatha Kishan Singh	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
105	Subsidiary Health Centre, Wakilan Wala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
106	Primary Health Centre, Kot Isa Khan	..	4	4	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Dharamkot
107	Subsidiary Health Centre, Dharamkot	..	8	4	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
108	Subsidiary Health Centre, Amir Shah Wala	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
109	Subsidiary Health Centre, Chak Kanian Kalan	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
110	Subsidiary Health Centre, Fatehgarh Korotana	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
111	Subsidiary Health Centre, Fateh Garg Panjuri	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do
112	Subsidiary Health Centre, Jalalabad	..	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do

113	Subsidiary Health Centre, Kishanpur Kalan	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
114	Subsidiary Health Centre Khurani	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
115	Subsidiary Health Centre, Makhu	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
116	Subsidiary Health Centre, Mubarakpur	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
117	Subsidiary Health Centre, Pir Mohamad	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
118	Subsidiary Health Centre, Talwandi Malian	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do
119	Canal Dispensary, Makhu	..	2	2	2	Do	Do	Do	Do

(*Directory of Medical Institutions, Punjab, Publication 1980 issued by the Director, Health and Family Planning, Punjab Chandigarh*)



APPENDIX IV

(vide page 383)

Family Welfare clinics in the Firozpur District as existing on 31 March 1980

Serial No.	Name and location	Rural/ Urban	Type of Management	Area of location	
				Tahsil	Block (if any)
1	Urban Family Welfare Unit, Abohar	Urban	Government	Fazilka	Abohar
2	Urban Family Welfare Unit, Firozpur	Do	Do	Firozpur	Firozpur
3	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Khui Khera	Rural	Do	Fazilka	Khuiyan Sarwar
4	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Kot Isa Khan	Do	Do	Zira	Dharmkot
5	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Kasoana	Do	Do	Do	Zira
6	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Ferozeshah	Do	Do	Firozpur	Ghal Khurd
7	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Mamdot	Do	Do	Do	Firozpur
8	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Guru Har Sahai	Do	Do	Do	Guru Har Sahai
9	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Jandwala Bhimeshah	Do	Do	Fazilka	Jalalabad
10	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Sito Gunno	Do	Do	Fazilka	Abohar
11	Rural Family Welfare Unit, Dabwala Kalan	Do	Do	Fazilka	Fazilka
12	Family Welfare Clinic, Firozpur Cantonment	Do	Cantonment Board	Firozpur	Firozpur

(Source : Civil Surgeon, Firozpur)

APPENDIX V

(vide page 383)

**Maternity and child health centres in the Firozpur District, as functioning
on 31 March 1980**

Serial No.	Name and location	Rural/ Urban	Type of Management	Area of location	
				Tahsil	Block (if any)
1	Jalalabad West	..	Urban	State Public	Fazilka Jalalabad
2	Fazilka		Do	Municipal Committee (Local Body)	Fazilka Fazilka
3	Abohar		Do	State Public	Do Abohar
4	Firozpur I		Do	Municipal Committee (Local Body)	Firozpur Firozpur
5	Firozpur II		Do	Do	Do Do
6	Zira		Do	District Red Cross Society	Zira Zira

(Source : Civil Surgeon, Firozpur)

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APPENDIX VI
Ayurvedic/Unani Institutions in the Firozpur District, as on 31 March 1986

(vide page 384)

Serial No.	Name and location	Ayurvedic/ Unani	Rural/ Urban	Type of Management	Area of Location	
					Tahsil	Fazilka
1	Burj Hanumanasgarh	.. Ayurvedic	Rural	Government	Fazilka	Fazilka
2	Kandhwala Amarkote	.. Do	Do	Do	Do	..
3	Dhenganwali	.. Do	Do	Do	Do	..
4	Dotarianwali	.. Do	Do	Do	Do	Abohar
5	Chak Budhoke	.. Unani	Do	Do	Do	Jalalabad
6	Panjeke	.. Ayurvedic	Do	Do	Firozpur	Guru Har Sahai
7	Bharana	.. Do	Do	Do	Zira	Zira
8	Nizamwala	.. Do	Do	Do	Firozpur	Firozpur
9	Abhun	.. Do	Do	Do	Fazilka	..
10	Sappanwali	.. Do	Do	Do	Do	Khulan Sarwar
11	Yarewala	.. Do	Do	Do	Firozpur	Firozpur Cantt
12	Fatehgarh Sabhrahan	.. Do	Do	Do	Zira	Zira
13	Danewala Sat Kosi	.. Do	-	Do	Fazilka	..
14	Shamakhanaka	.. Do	Do	Do	Do	Fazilka
15	Ghubai	.. Homoeopathy	Do	Do	Do	Jalalabad
16	Chugatewala	.. Ayurvedic	Do	Do	Firozpur	Ghal Khurd
17	Rana	.. Do	Do	Do	Fazilka	Fazilka

18	Chariwala Dhanna	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Kharian Sarwar
19	Karian Pehlawan	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Firozpur	..
20	Chak Saidoke	..	Unani	Do	Do	Pazilka	Guru Har Sahai	
21	Firozpur City	..	Ayurvedic	Urban	Do	Firozpur	Firozpur	
22	Chamb	..	Do	Rural	Do	Zira	..	
23	Jhok Tehal Singh	..	Do	Do	Do	Firozpur	Guru Har Sahai	
24	Gobindgarh	..	Do	Do	Do	Pazilka	Abbohar	
25	Dholewala	..	Unani	Do	Do	Zira	..	
26	Dodewala	..	Ayurvedic	Do	Do	Pazilka	Abbohar	
27	Ghatian Wali Jattan	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Pazilka	
28	Bara Bhaika	..	Do	Do	Do	Firozpur	Ghal Khurd	
29	Rangzah	..	Do	Do	Do	Pazilka	Abbohar	
30	Mahuana Bodla	..	Unani	Do	Do	Do	..	
31	Chak Jamsar	..	Ayurvedic	Do	Do	Do	Jalalatbad	
32	Kot Karor Kalan	..	Do	Do	Do	Firozpur	Ghal Khurd	
33	Chak Kalewala	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Jalalabad	
34	Talwandi Bhai	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Ghal Khurd	
35	Karmuwala	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Jalalabad	
36	Chamla	..	Do	Do	Do	Zira	..	
37	Bhinder Kalan	..	Do	Do	Do	Do	Dharamkot	

(Source : District Ayurvedic and Unani Officer, Firozpur)

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APPENDIX VII
Work done by blood banks with respect to the collection and transfusion of blood in the Firozpur District, 1972—1980
 (vide page 384)

Name of the Institution	Year (Calendar year)	Blood donors	Blood given in cc	Transfu- tion	Blood collected in cc	Blood discharged in cc	Blood groupings	Blood matchings	Blood injected in cc
Civil Hospital, Firozpur	1976	..	70	28,000	70	28,000	28,000	386	70
	1977	..	101	40,400	101	40,400	40,400	580	104
	1978	..	143	36,800	142	57,200	56,800	560	143
	1979	..	169	66,400	166	67,600	66,400	965	168
	1980	..	193	76,080	190	77,200	76,000	785	196
Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment	1976	..	1,319	5,93,550	1,297	5,93,550	5,83,650	2,831	1,913
	1977	..	1,927	8,67,150	1,866	8,67,150	8,39,700	2,001	1,585
	1978	..	1,305	5,87,250	1,262	5,87,250	5,67,900	3,543	2,162
	1979	..	1,449	6,52,050	1,314	6,52,050	5,91,300	3,642	2,205
	1980	..	1,549	6,97,050	1,506	6,97,050	6,77,700	4,363	2,561

(Source : Civil Surgeon, Firozpur, and Medical Superintendent, Frances Newton Hospital, Firozpur Cantonment)

APPENDIX VIII

(vide page 384)

Work done under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, in the Firozpur District 1974—1980

Year		Number of samples seized	Number of prosecutions launched	Number of cases punished	Fine realized
1974	..	204	45	84	Rs 12,800
1975	..	305	76	30	24,500
1976	..	206	41	22	19,000
1977	..	283	63	22	23,000
1978	..	416	119	27	21,450
1979	..	296	54	9	3,500
1980	..	297	64	17	17,000

(Source : Civil Surgeon, Firozpur)



CHAPTER XVII

OTHER SOCIAL SERVICES

Social services mean those activities of the State and individuals which are undertaken to bring about social equilibrium among individuals, classes or groups of persons. These activities play an important role in making administration more effective and in utilizing welfare services and their scope has been widening continually. It is almost an obligation on the part of a progressive modern State to promote the general well-being of the community. The State also renders a good number of specialized services in different spheres, such as education, public health and housing. The modern welfare State is, thus, built on a strong framework of social services. The successive Five-Year Plans have also afforded wide opportunities and scope for further improving and expanding social services.

(a) Labour Welfare

Labour welfare, as a movement, began in the early years of the Industrial Revolution, especially in the Western countries. In the present century, the growth of labour welfare, to a great extent, is due to the growth of industrialization, urbanization and acceptance of modern techniques. Labour welfare implies such services, facilities and amenities as may be established in or in the vicinity of undertakings to enable the persons employed in them to perform their work in healthy and congenial surroundings and provide them with amenities conducive to good health and sound morals. Welfare activities also include such activities as may be carried out for improving the health, safety, general well-being and the industrial efficiency of the workers beyond the minimum standards laid down by the Factory Acts and other labour legislation. Thus labour welfare includes housing, medical and educational facilities, nutrition, facilities for rest and recreation, co-operative societies, day nurseries and creches, provision of healthy accommodation, holidays with pay, social insurance measures, etc. undertaken voluntarily by the employers.

Labour welfare may be classified into three broad categories, i.e. statutory, voluntary and mutual. Statutory welfare constitutes those provisions of welfare work, the observance of which is binding on the employers under law. Voluntary welfare includes all these activities conducive to the welfare of the workers, undertaken by the employers themselves. Mutual welfare is a co-operative enterprise of the workers to improve their lot in a suitable manner.

Before Independence, there was hardly any systematic and regular governmental organization for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes for the welfare of industrial workers and for dealing with other labour problems in the State. To look after labour welfare in the State, a

separate Labour Department was established in 1949. The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, Moga (Faridkot District) looks after Firozpur also. He is assisted by one labour inspector, grade I, posted at Firozpur and 2 labour inspectors, grade II, one each posted at Firozpur and Abohar. The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer deals with the administration and disputes under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The shop inspectors, although under the immediate control of the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, Moga, function under the Chief Inspector of Shops and Commercial Establishments-cum-Labour Officer (Headquarters), Chandigarh. They are responsible for the administration of the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishment Act, 1958, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, Moga, is the Conciliation Officer for the District under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. He initiates conciliation proceedings for the settlement of industrial disputes and tries to settle disputes by mediation through joint discussion. If he fails, the matter is referred through Government, to the Labour Court, Ludhiana¹ or the Industrial Tribunal, Punjab, Chandigarh. Appointed under section 7-A of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Industrial Tribunal, Punjab, Chandigarh, plays a very important role in the redress of grievances of the industrial workers in the State.

Labour Legislation

Labour legislation is essentially a socio-economic legislation pertaining to various human problems in relation to industry. In every country, large-scale industrialization has adversely affected the working classes people in the shape of long working hours and industrial fatigue, bad environmental conditions at the places of work, industrial hazards, concentration of population in dirty slums, insanitary conditions, industrial diseases, etc. Modern industrialization creates social and economic problems, whereas labour legislation is an attempt to tackle them.

The problems cropping up as the result of industrialization can broadly be divided into various heads, viz. working conditions, industrial safety, hygiene and welfare inside the place of work, wages, industrial relations, trade unionism, social security, welfare outside the place of work, employment and unemployment, and miscellaneous. Since ordinary civil laws are insufficient to govern these problems, labour laws are enacted to facilitate their solutions. These laws also deal with the regulation of industrial relations between the management and the workers. The State is following the labour policy of the Government of

¹The Jurisdiction of the Labour Court Ludhiana, extends to the districts of Ludhiana, Firozpur, Patiala, Bathinda, Rupnagar and Sangrur. Its functions are mainly of a quasi-judicial nature.

India, which is generally used on the principles enunciated in the provisions laid down in the International Labour Code of the International Labour Organization. Under the Constitution of India, the enactment as well as the administration of labour laws is the responsibility of both the Union and State governments.

The salient features of the Central and State Labour Acts in force in the District are the Factories Act, 1948, to ensure adequate safety measures and to promote the health and welfare of the workers; the Punjab Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958, regulating, *inter alia*, the daily and weekly hours of work, rest intervals, the opening and closing hours of establishments, the payment of wages, overtime payment, holidays with pay, annual leave, the employment of children and young persons, etc. The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, provides for the grant of cash maternity benefits for specified periods before and after confinement, the grant of leave and certain other facilities to women employees in factories. The Employment of Children Act, 1938, prohibits the employment of young children below the age of 15 years in certain risky and unhealthy occupations. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, provides for the regular and prompt payment of wages and to prevent the exploitation of wage-earners by prohibiting the imposition of fines and making deductions from wages. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, requires to fix the minimum rates of wages payable to employees in the scheduled employments. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides for the investigation, and settlement of industrial disputes through mediation, conciliation, adjudication and arbitration. There is scope for the payment of compensation in the case of lay-off and retrenchment under the Act. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, regulates the conditions of recruitment, discharge, disciplinary action, holidays, etc. of the workers employed in industrial undertakings. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, provides for compensation to injured workers of certain categories and, in the case of fatal accidents, to their dependants, if the accidents arose out of, and in the course of their employment. It also provides for the payment of compensation in the case of certain occupational diseases. The Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, confers a legal and corporate status on registered trade unions. The main provisions of the Act relate to the recognition of rights, privileges and obligations, and liabilities of registered trade unions. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, is a pioneering measure in the field of social insurance and provides for certain benefits to the employees in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury. The Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, seeks to make provision for the future of an industrial worker after he

retires or is retrenched, or for his dependants in case of his early death. The Punjab Industrial Housing Act, 1956, provides for the administration, allotment, realization of rent, etc. with respect to the quarters constructed under the subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme.

The 'Labour Welfare Activities' of the employers, in particular, and of the State, in general, are not only conducive to the improvement in the conditions of the working class, but are the best kind of investment of employers for promoting industrial efficiency. Besides, the labour welfare has tremendous potentialities for fostering good industrial relations between the employers and the workers. The labour laws in the State are administered by the Labour Department headed by the Labour Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, and the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, are, however, operated under the direction of the Regional Director, Employees, State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh, and the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Punjab, Chandigarh, respectively. The Labour Commissioner is assisted by the Chief Inspector of Factories at the State headquarters, and by the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer (stationed at Moga), a factory inspector, labour inspectors and other staff at the district level.

According to the 1971 Census, the number of workers in the Firozpur District was 3,08,043, forming 29.5 per cent of the total population of the District. In 1978, the average number of workers employed in the 175 registered working factories in the District and, thus, covered under the various labour laws, was 4,990.

The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, provides for a scheme for the payment of gratuity to employees engaged in factories, mines, ports, oilfields, plantations, railway companies, shops or other establishments and in the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. For the administration of this Act, the labour-cum-conciliation officers are the controlling authority.

Industrial Relations.—Industrial relations play a vital role in the establishment and maintenance of industrial democracy. The relations between the employees and employers are governed by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The machinery provided under the Act is two-fold: first, the prevention of disputes by providing internal machinery in the form of works committees and welfare officers ; and second, the provision of the permanent Conciliation Officer, the Conciliation Board, the Court of Inquiry, and the Industrial Tribunal. The Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Act

in the District. He is to foster good relations between the two sections of industry, viz. the employees and the employers, by removing all causes of friction and by the timely redress of grievances of the parties.

Even though the functions of the Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer is mediatory, with no power to give any orders or awards, he has been successful in bringing about a large number of agreements between the parties. The relations between the employees and the employers are normally peaceful, but sometimes, they become strained and strikes or lock-outs take place. During 1972 and in March, 1980, 3 strikes took place in the Shree Bhawani Cotton Mills, Abohar, during 1975, 1977 and 1979. The strike of 1979 lasted for full 21 days and about 1,900 employees out of 2,200 participated in it. As many as 39,900 man-days were lost during this strike. No industrial unrest was, however, reported in the District in 1980.

The following table gives the particulars regarding the industrial disputes in the Firozpur District under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, from 1974 to 1979 :

Year	Number of disputes	Number of strikes and lock-outs	Number of workers involved in strikes	Number of man-days lost
1974	24	..	..	..
1975	38	1	2,000	10,000
1976	33	..	..	..
1977	30	1	2,000	36,000
1978	50	..	..	..
1979	35	1	1,900	39,900

(Source : Labour-cum-Conciliation Officer, Moga)

Works Committees

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, provides for the establishment of works committees at the plant level, consisting of representatives of employers and workers. The aim of these committees is to promote measures for securing and preserving unity and good relations between the employers and the workers. The Act empowers the State Government to constitute works committees in every industrial establishment

employing 100 or more workers, in which both employers and employees are to have an equal representation. The number of the representatives of employers and workers in a works committee is not to exceed twenty. The Act also lays down provisions for their terms of office, the procedure of work, etc.

Trade Unions.—Trade unions are voluntary associations of employees formed to promote and protect their interests through collective action and securing them a better and healthier status in industry as well as in society. These are continued associations of wage-earners for the purpose of maintaining or improving the conditions of their working lives. The existence of a trade union is indispensable because the workers require help in time of sickness or death, and protection against suffering and want when they are out of job, or when they are too old to work any more. Further, the trade union provides an adequate machinery for settling the relations between the employers and the employees. Trade unions, developed on proper lines, lessen violent class conflicts and are beneficial to the employers, the employees, the State and the public. They have acquired an important place in the economic, political and social life of the community.

Since Independence, there has been a considerable growth of trade union movement in the District and, as a result, there has been a constant increase in the number of registered trade unions. The particulars of trade unions, registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, functioning in the District, are given in the Appendix on page 425.

The Factories Act, 1948.—The first Act for regulating the conditions of labour in factories was passed in 1881. The law was revised in 1891, 1911, 1922 and 1934 to meet the new needs which arose from time to time. In 1947, the Government of India framed a bill for radically overhauling the existing law, which was passed into Act on 23 September 1948. The new Act, called the Factories Act, 1948, was put into force on 1 April 1949.

The main object of the Act is to ensure adequate safety measures and to promote the health and welfare of the workers employed in factories. The Act applied to all establishments, employing 20 or more persons, where power is used. The number of working factories registered under the Act in the District in 1978 was 175. The labour welfare officers have been employed by Shree Bhawani Cotton Mills Ltd., Abohar, to look after the general welfare of the employees.

The Employees' Provident Fund Scheme.—The Employees' Provident Fund Act was passed in March 1952. The scheme under the Act was

formulated and collections to the provident funds in the factories, covered under the Act, were started in November 1952.

The Provident Fund Scheme is compulsory both for employers and workers and both are required to contribute. The employees and the employers, each contribute 6½ per cent of the total emoluments of the worker. The entire amount is deposited in the State Bank of India in the employees' provident fund accounts. The total number of subscribers to the scheme in the District, as it stood on 31 March 1980, was 2,114.

Necessary safeguards against the attachment of the amount in the provident funds, standing to the credit of a member, with respect to any debt or liability, and against the deduction of wages by an employer by reason of his liability for all contributions have been made. The fund vests in a tripartite Central Board of Trustees, having nominees of the Central and State Governments and employers' and employees' representatives. Withdrawals from the fund are allowed for making payment towards a policy of life insurance. The grant of advances to workers is also permissible in cases of serious or prolonged illness of the member himself or of member of his family. Besides, non-refundable advances for the purchase, construction or acquisition of a house are granted under the Government Housing Scheme.

The chief executive officer of the scheme is the Central Provident Fund Commissioner at New Delhi. The Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Chandigarh, executes the scheme in the Punjab. Provision has been made for the appointment of inspectors to punish the defaulters. The employers are required to maintain a contribution card for each employee in which monthly contributions are recorded. These cards can be seen or inspected at any time.

To give timely financial assistance to the nominees or heirs of the deceased members, a Death-Relief Fund was set up in 1964. At least Rs 500 is given by way of relief. A non-refundable advance is also granted in case of a person's retrenchment from service.

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme.—The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, marks the first attempt at introducing a compulsory integrated system of social insurance covering health, maternity and accident benefits. Under the provisions of this Act, the Employees' State Insurance Scheme was introduced into the Punjab in 1953. It is designed to provide the industrial workers with security against sickness, maternity and employment injury in the form of cash benefits. The scheme promotes the general welfare of the worker and his family and provides the

insured persons with medical benefit, sickness benefit, disability benefit, dependant benefit and maternity benefit. The scheme is applicable to workers in all factories other than seasonal factories, run with power, and employing 20 or more workers. It covers manual as well as clerical, supervisory and technical personnel, but it does not apply to person whose remuneration exceeds Rs 500 per month. It also excludes the personnel of the Armed Forces. The scheme, however, does not apply to the mines under the operation of the Mines Act, 1952 and a railway running shed. The contribution has to be made by both the employer and the employee at specified rates.

The provision of medical benefit is the statutory responsibility of the State Government and the facilities are to be provided in accordance with the standards laid down by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation. The expenditure on other cash benefits is to be met entirely out of the Employees' State Insurance Fund and is arranged by the Regional Director.

The scheme functions under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, which has its headquarters at New Delhi. It is under the administrative control of the Director-General, the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi. The scheme is executed in the State through the Regional Director, Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Chandigarh who inspects factories, collects contributions and arranges the payment of cash benefits.

The scheme was implemented at Abohar on 21 February 1965. An E.S.I. dispensary has been established at Abohar for the benefit of the workers. By the end of March 1980, there were 4,350 insured persons at Abohar, covered under the scheme.

Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme.—During the First Five-Year Plan, the Government of India, after consulting the State Governments and the representatives of employers and workers, finalized the scheme of Subsidized Industrial Housing in September 1952. Under this Scheme, three types of tenements have been included for subsidies and loans; those to be constructed by the State Government or statutory bodies, such as improvement trusts or development boards ; those to be constructed by the industrial employers for the use of the workers of their establishments, and those to be constructed by the co-operative housing societies of the workers.

The Subsidized Industrial Housing Scheme, in its original form, did not record any substantial progress. Hence several modifications have been introduced into it from time to time. The State advances loans and

gives grants to private employers for the construction of tenements which are let out to the workers at subsidized rates. So far, no labour colony has been constructed in the District under the Scheme. However, Messrs Shree Bhawani Cotton Mills, Abohar, has constructed about 200 quarters for its employees.

(b) Prohibition

Like other districts of the State, Firozpur is also not a dry area. On 31 March 1980, the number of country liquor vends and foreign liquor vends in the District was 77 and 38, respectively.

The consumption of excisable articles in the District during 1975-76 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year	Country	Indian-	Foreign	Wine and	Opium
	spirit	made	liquor	beer	
	foreign				
	(Proof	(Proof	(Proof	(bulk	(Kg)
	litres)	litres)	litres)	litres)	
1975-76	..	4,20,829	3,12,626	137	1,39,673
1976-77	..	4,60,830	4,00,239	345	3,48,866
1977-78	..	5,13,100	4,46,134	183	3,32,228
1978-79	..	6,25,060	4,23,470	12	4,23,133
1979-80	..	6,39,475	4,73,871	6	4,24,886

(Source : Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur)

The Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur, administers the Excise and Opium Acts in the District. He is assisted by 2 district excise inspectors, 8 excise inspectors and 2 sub-inspectors. The number of cases registered under these Acts in the District, during 1975-76 to 1979-80, is given below :

Year	Number of cases detected		
	Excise Act	Opium Act	Total
1975-76	..	2,941	394
1976-77	..	3,221	331
1977-78	..	3,582	500
1978-79	..	3,861	610
1979-80	..	4,186	746

(Source : Assistant Excise and Taxation Commissioner, Firozpur)

(c) Advancememt of Backward Classes and Tribes

The caste system served a useful purpose when it was originally devised. In the early times, it permitted considerable inter-caste mobility and served as a useful measure for the division of labour according to the talents and aptitudes of the individuals and groups. But the caste system, originally conceived as a practical method of dividing labour with the object of securing the maximum of social efficiency and responsibility with the minimum of social friction, hardened during the centuries into a rigid mould which hampered national progress. The caste system raised strong walls of mutual exclusiveness. Some castes began to look down upon others instead of realizing that all were equally essential for the healthy growth of society and national economy. In this way, nearly one-fifth of the population of India came to be considered to be belonging to the lowest rung of the social ladder. Even among these castes, there were further divisions and many millions all over the country were treated as untouchables and outcastes.

Before 1950, the classifications of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were governed by the Government of India (Schedule Castes) Order, 1936, and the Thirteenth Schedule of the Government of India (Provincial Legislative Assemblies) Order, 1936. The tribes, thus classified, were termed Backward Classes. While the Thirteenth Schedule of the Government of India (Legislative Assemblies) Order, 1936, did not specify any area as Scheduled Areas, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, indicated in the Schedule appended to the order certain specified areas, and the listed tribes which could be regarded as the Scheduled Tribes, if they lived in these Scheduled Areas.

Apart from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the State Government prepared a provincial list of Backward Classes. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, residing outside the areas specified in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders, 1950, respectively, were deemed to be Backward Classes, for the purpose of provincial lists. There are persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes in the Punjab.

Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes.—According to the 1981 Census, the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes in the District was 2,73,328 (1,46,535 males and 1,26,793 females), forming 20.9 percent of the total population of the District. Out of these, 2,20,361 (1,18,302 males and 1,02,059 females), i.e. 80.6 per cent, lived in the rural areas and 52,967 (28,233 males and 24,734 females), i.e. 19.4 per cent, lived in the urban areas.

The different Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the District

and the main professions carried on by them are mentioned below :

Sr. No.	Name of the Caste	Main professions
1	Ad Dharmi	.. Agricultural labour, shoe-making and leather tanning
2	Barar, Burar or Berar	.. Manufacturing of <i>chhaj</i> (winnowing basket), and begging
3	Batwal	.. Cultivation, construction, etc.
4	Bauria or Bawaria	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, household Industries, hunting, etc.
5	Bazigar	.. Agricultural labour, household industries, etc.
6	Balmiki, Chura or Bhangi	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries, tanning and currying of hides, skins, scavenging, etc.
7	Chamar, Jatia Chamar, Rehgar, Raigar, Ramdasi, Ravidasi	Cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries shoemaking, tanning, etc.
8	Chanal	.. ..
9	Dagi	.. ..
10	Darain	.. ..
11	Dhanak	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, weaving, etc.
12	Dhogi, Dhangri or Saggi	.. ..
13	Dumna Mahasha or Doom	.. Agricultural labour, etc.
14	Kabirpanthi or Julaha	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries, etc.
15	Khatik	.. Agricultural labour, leather-dyeing and piggery
16	Kori or Koli	.. Manufacturing, construction, etc.

Sr. No.	Name of the Caste	Main professions
17	Mazhabi	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries, manufacturing, construction, tanning and currying of hides and skins, scavenging, etc.
18	Megh	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries, etc.
19	Nat	.. Cultivation, etc.
20	Od	.. Agricultural labour, work on canals, roads and railroads
21	Pasi	.. Construction, etc.
22	Sanhai	.. Cultivation and agricultural labour
23	Sanhal	.. ..
24	Sansi, Bhedkut or Manesh	.. Cultivation, agricultural labour, household industries, etc.
25	Sapela	.. ..
26	Sirkiband	.. Cultivation
Backward Classes		
27	Jhiwar	.. Supplying water to people in their houses and attending to other household jobs
28	Kamboj	.. Agriculture
29	Rai Sikh	.. Agriculture
30	Baragi	.. Begging
31	Chhimba, Chhipi, Darzi	.. Tailoring and printing of cloth
32	Dhobi	.. Washing of clothes
33	Khati	.. Carpentry
34	Kumhar	.. Pottery and using donkeys as beasts of burden for others
35	Nai	.. Barber's job

All these castes or classes are backward in economic, social, education and other fields. Education was rare among them in the past, but with the passage of time, the position has improved. Now there is an urge among them for getting education at all levels. Among the Scheduled Castes in the District, the number of literates in 1971 was 16,802 (10,987 in the rural and 5,815 in the urban areas).

Measures adopted for the betterment of the condition of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes

For the progress of the country, as a whole, the advancement of the Backward Classes is essential. Their social, educational, cultural and economic standard need be raised. With this end in view, the Indian Constitution recognized the need for safeguards, laws and administrative measures to ameliorate the lot of the downtrodden sections of society. These classes have been described as Scheduled Castes because their names are listed in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. Their rights and interests have been safeguarded. The Constitution also provides that no discrimination can be made against them in any shape or form.

The Punjab Government have taken steps to safeguard and promote the interests of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in accordance with the special provisions contained in the Constitution. The Punjab took the lead in enacting legislation for the abolition of untouchability. The Punjab Removal of the Religious and Social Disabilities Act, 1948, was passed to ensure free and unhindered use of public places by the Harijans. The enforcement of the Untouchability Offences Act, 1955, totally removed the last vestiges of disabilities, religious and social, from which the Harijans have been suffering for centuries.

The Directive Principles, as laid down in the Constitution, make it binding upon the States to adopt special measures for ameliorating the lot of these neglected classes and tribes. Therefore every possible effort is being made to provide the Backward Classes with the maximum possible opportunities to advance them socially and economically. The Directorate of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Punjab, Chandigarh, attends to the work of the uplift and advancement of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in the State. To look after this work at the District level, the office of the District Welfare Officer was established at Firozpur on 1 November 1956. He is assisted by 3 tahsil welfare officers, one posted at the headquarters of each tahsil, viz. Firozpur, Zira and Fazilka.

The Constitution provides for the reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes in Parliament and also in the State assemblies for 10 years, i.e., up to 1960. This period has been extended further up to 1990. A

number of seats have been reserved for these classes in the *panchayats* and *panchayat samitis* and *zila parishads*.

The different schemes undertaken for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes are detailed below :

1. Social Welfare Schemes

The State Welfare Department has undertaken the following schemes :

(i) **Subsidy for the Construction of New Houses for Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis.**—The economic condition of the members of Scheduled Castes and Vimukt Jatis is very poor. They live in congested areas and mostly in *chhappars* (thatched huts). Therefore to help the poor and homeless members of these classes, subsidies are granted for the construction of new houses. The houses subsidized under the scheme are built in the form of colonies. A subsidy of Rs 900 was granted to each deserving person. But the amount of the subsidy has been increased to Rs 2,000 with effect from 1975-76. Unskilled labour or sites or both for the construction of houses are provided by the beneficiaries themselves. Each house consists of a room, a verandah, a kitchen and a courtyard, all covering 5 or 6 *marlas*.

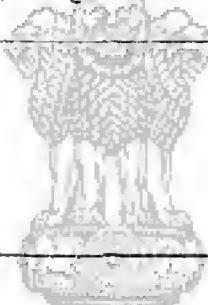
The beneficiaries under the scheme are bound not to alienate the properties, so acquired by them. The proprietary rights of the house are fully vested in the Punjab Government for 20 years, after which the house becomes the property of the beneficiary. However, the latter enjoys free use of the house during this period.

The total amount of subsidies granted and the number of beneficiaries under the schemes in the District during 1973-74 to 1979-80 are given below :

Year		Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	..	7,200	1
1974-75	..	..	..
1975-76	..	1,50,000	75
1976-77	..	1,92,000	96
1977-78	..	3,04,000	152
1978-79	..	3,00,000	150
1979-80	..	3,00,000	150

(Source : District Welfare Officer, Firozpur)

Subsidy for the Purchase of Agricultural Land.—The members of the Scheduled Castes and *Vinukt Jatis* generally depend on agriculture. But most of them have no land of their own, and earn their livelihood by taking land on lease or on *batai* (crop-sharing). To help the needy, poor and deserving landless Harijans, each was given Rs 2,000 as subsidy for purchasing agricultural land, measuring not less than 5 acres and costing up to Rs 4,500. The balance of the price of land, i.e. Rs 2,500, was contributed by the beneficiary from his own resources or by raising a loan from the Land Mortgage Bank. Since 1971-72, the amount of subsidy has been increased to Rs 5,000 for the purchase of 3 acres, costing not less than Rs 7,500. In addition, Rs 1,000 is given to each beneficiary for the construction of a house on the land purchased by him. The beneficiaries are also given subsidy for meeting stamp duty charges at the rate of Rs 160 each. The amount of the subsidies granted and the number of beneficiaries, i.e. persons settled on land under the scheme in the District, during 1973-74 to 1979-80, are given below :



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Year		Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1973-74	..	12,360	2
1974-75	..	61,800	10
1975-76	..	80,340	13
1976-77	..	80,340	13
1977-78	..	1,23,600	20
1978-79	..	1,05,060	17

(Source : District Welfare Officer, Firozpur)

Subsidy for Drinking-water.—With a view to providing pure drinking-water for the Scheduled Castes in the areas where there is scarcity of it, subsidy is given for constructing *diggies*, sinking wells, repairing old wells and installing hand-pumps. The amount disbursed, along with the number of villages benefited under this scheme during 1973-74 to 1979-80,

is given in the following table :

Year		Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of villages
1973-74	..	37,800	113
1974-75	..	40,850	100
1975-76	..	61,200	118
1976-77	..	45,575	97
1977-78	..	76,900	253
1978-79	..	51,850	126
1979-80	..	50,000	116

Dharmshala Scheme.—This scheme was introduced during 1969-70. Under it, Rs 5,000 was given for the construction of new *dharmshala* in a Harijan *Basti*. This amount of grant was raised to Rs 5,500 in 1970-71 to Rs 7,000 during 1974-75 and still further to Rs 10,000 in 1978-79.

The amount disbursed under the scheme and the number of villages benefited in the District during 1973-74 to 1979-80 is given in the following table :

Year		Amount disbursed (Rs)	Number of villages benefited
1973-74	..	7,01,000	130
1974-75	..	6,50,000	95
1975-76	..	6,63,000	97
1976-77	..	8,74,000	126
1977-78	..	3,15,000	45
1978-79	..	4,12,000	44
1979-80	..	4,58,000	55

Basti Sudhar Scheme.—The majority of Scheduled Castes live in the rural areas and the environmental conditions of their *basties* lack the basic sanitary facilities. This scheme aims at making pucca streets and drains in the *basties*. These works are executed through the Public Health Department as deposit works. The rough cost estimates of the pucca streets and drains are prepared by that Department and the amount is sanctioned and sent to the concerned executive engineer by the Department of Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, Punjab.

So far, 1,083 villages have been covered under this scheme in the State. The amount spent, along with the number of villages covered under the scheme during 1973-74 to 1979-80, in the Firozpur District, is given in the following table :

Year	Amount disbursed (Rs)	Nmber of Villages
1973-74	5,80,356	22
1974-75	6,41,618	18
1975-76	4,20,416	5
1976-77	7,17,758	12
1977-78	..	..
1978-79	4,83,537	7
1979-80	2,76,000	2

Free-Distribution-of-books Scheme.—This scheme was started during 1976-77. Under this scheme, the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes studying in the 6th, 7th and 8th classes are given books free of cost.

The number of books, along with their values and the number of student benefited under this scheme, are detailed below :

Year	Number of books supplied	Total price (Rs)	Number of beneficiaries
1976-77	8,974	14,180	1,233
1977-78	12,670	23,870	1,252
1978-79	13,400	29,394	2,000
1979-80	19,165	41,242	2,384
1980-81	25,566	55,336	3,147

Community Welfare Centres.—To look after the children of working mothers of Balmiki sweepers, scavengers, etc. when they are at work, Government creches or centres are functioning. These centres are running in those towns where the population of the above categories of women is large. At these centres, children in the age-group of 0 to 6 years are enrolled. Each child is given a diet worth Rs 1.25 daily. There is one lady supervisor and two nurse-cum-lady attendants at each centre to look after these children.

Under the scheme, 7 Community Welfare Centres are functioning in the District at Fatehgarh Korotana, Bara Pohwindian and Makhu (Zira Tahsil), Ladhoke (Fazilka Tahsil), Firozpur Cantonment and Mothanwala (Firozpur Tahsil) and Khanpur.

Legal Assistance.—To protect the members of Scheduled Castes, *Vimukt Jatis* and other Backward Classes against the tyrannies of the landlords and other exploiting classes, they are provided with legal assistance by the Government to fight out their cases pertaining to ejectment from land or other properties, recovery of rent due to landlords, cases pertaining to *khasra girdawari*, the observance of untouchability, etc. The Deputy Commissioner arranges part-time counsel to take up all such cases on payment of suitable remuneration.

The scheme was introduced into the State in 1958-59. The amount provided in the form of legal assistance and the number of beneficiaries in the District during 1973-74 to 1979-80 are given below :

Year		Amount	Number of
		disbursed (Rs)	beneficiaries
1973-74	..	500	5
1974-75	..	..	..
1975-76	..	911	3
1976-77	..	..	..
1977-78	..	675	1
1978-79	..	..	..
1979-80	..	1,120	3

(Source : District Welfare Officer, Firozpur)

(viii) **Zonal Coaching-Centre, Patiala.**—With a view to imparting pre-examination coaching to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the IAS, IPS and allied services, a training-centre, known as the Zonal Coaching-Centre, has been set up at Patiala at the Punjabi University Campus. The candidates are provided with free board and lodging and medical facilities during the period of training.

II. Industrial Training Schemes

In addition to the above-mentioned schemes, the Industrial Training Department, Punjab, has sponsored several other schemes for imparting training to the members of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in various engineering and non-engineering trades. Of these schemes, the following may be mentioned :

(i) **Industrial Training Centres.**—The Department runs a number of Industrial Training Centres, exclusively meant for the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, *Vimukt Jatis* and Backward Classes, aged between 14 and 25 years. Each trainee, belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes, is granted a stipend of Rs 25 per month, while that belonging to the *Vimukt Jatis* is granted a stipend of Rs 45 per month for the one-year course.

(ii) **Industrial Training in mills, Factories and Institutions.**—Under this scheme, stipends are awarded to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, *Vimukt Jatis* and other Backward Classes, who get vocational or technical training in the various Industrial training institutes, centres, schools,etc. run by the State Industrial Training Department as well as by the various mills and factories in the private sector. The training in these institutions lasts for only one year. A stipend of Rs 25 per month is granted to the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Backward Classes and Rs 45 to those belonging to the *Vimukt Jatis*.

(iii) **Industrial Training Institutes.**—Under this scheme, a number of industrial training institutes are functioning in the State. In them, training is imparted to the students in various engineering and non-engineering trades. Twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two per cent for those belonging to the Backward Classes. A stipend of Rs 40 per month is awarded to 60 per cent of the trainees belonging to those classes on poverty-cum-merit basis. They are also provided with other facilities, such as free education, free medical aid, free clothing and free hostel accommodation, subject to the availability of seats.

(iv) **Industrial Schools for Boys and Girls.**—Training is imparted in various vocational engineering trades in these schools to the students. Twenty per cent of the seats are reserved for the trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two per cent for those belonging to the Backward Classes. Stipends are awarded to a limited number of trainees on poverty-cum-merit basis. The training is given free to all the trainees.

Representative Institutions

Two representative institutions are functioning in the District under the guidance of Harijan leaders. These institutions are engaged mainly in the uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and aim at removing untouchability and other social evils. These institutions have also their branches at various places in the District. The name of these institutions are as under :

1. District Backward Classes League, Abohar
2. Balmik Sabha, Firozpur

(d) Other Social Welfare Activities

Social services cover too wide a range of activities to be dealt with here. A few of them are detailed below :

Old-Age Pension Scheme.—This scheme was introduced into the State in 1964 with a view to providing social security through the grant of financial assistance for deserving destitute, old and disabled persons who have neither any means of subsistence nor anybody to support them. In the case of men, they should be above 65 years and in the case of women, they should be 60 or above. The rate of pension was increased in July 1968 from Rs 15 to 25 per month and further raised to Rs 50 per month with effect from March 1973, keeping in view the rising prices of essential commodities.

There were as on 31 March 1980, as many as 5,010 beneficiaries under this scheme.

Financial Assistance to Widows and Destitute Women.—This scheme was introduced into the State in 1968 with a view to providing financial assistance for the needy and destitute women below the age of 60 years. The assistance under the scheme is given to those women who are left without any means of subsistence after the deaths of their husbands or to those whose husbands are physically or mentally incapable of earning a livelihood. Keeping in view the increased cost of living, the rate of assistance was raised from Rs 25 to 50 per month with effect from 1 March 1973,

There were on 31 March 1980, as many as 1,150 beneficiaries under this scheme.

Financial Assistance to Dependent Children.—This scheme came into force in March 1968. It aims at providing orphan and destitute children under 16 years with relief. Such children should either have lost their parents or whose parents are unable to maintain them owing to some incurable disease or permanent physical disability.

In the case of more than one deserving child in a family preference in the grant of financial assistance is given to school-going children. The rate of financial assistance, which was previously Rs 20 per month, has been increased to Rs 50 per month per child with effect from 1 March 1974.

On 31 March 1980, there were 227 beneficiaries under this scheme.

(e) Public Trusts, Charitable Endowments and Muslim Wakfs

Public trusts and charitable endowments render useful service to society in various fields, such as social, religious and educational ones. Several educational institutions, medical institutions, *Dharmshalas* and other similar social-welfare institutions are run by these organizations. Their finances come either from contributions, or from revenue-free land attached to some of them.

The notable public trusts existing in the District are briefly mentioned below :

1. Har Bhagwan Memorial Trust, Firozpur.—Founded by Rai Gopimal about the year 1887, the main object of the trust is the spreading of education among the masses. It also runs a free hospital for women.

2. Narain Dass Daroga Trust, Firozpur City.—The trust was founded by Narain Das Daroga about the year 1890 for running a dispensary, for providing patients with medicines and for imparting education in Hindi and for awarding scholarships to the students.

3. Lala Tulsi Ram Samadh and Hospital for Women, Village Game-wala, Tahsil and District Firozpur.—Founded on 10 August 1909 in the memory of Tulsi Ram, 1/4 of the income of the trust, managing these institutions, is utilized for the maintenance of the *samadh* and 3/4 for the hospital.

4. The Jain Upasru Trust, Zira.—Founded in 1933, the Trust runs a dispensary for women at Zira.

5. Sawan Mal Memorial Trust, Zira.—Founded in 1958 in the memory of Shri Sawan Mal, the Trust runs a serai and a *janj ghar* (a place for marriage parties to stay).

6. Bara Thakurwara Trust, Dharmkot.—Founded in 1887 by the local people, the Trust maintains a temple.

7. Arjan Das High School Trust, Dharmkot.—Founded in 1914 in the memory of Arjan Das, the trust runs a higher secondary school at Dharmkot.

8. Amar Nath Janjghar Trust, Dharmkot.—Founded in 1960 in the memory of Amar Nath, the Trust runs a *janj ghar*.

9. Munshi Ram Charitable Trust, Fazilka.—Founded by Shri Munshi Ram on 20 February 1937 for imparting education, the Trust runs the M.R. College, Fazilka.

10. Sharda Trust, Abohar.—Registered in 1969 for the benefit of poor and needy persons, the Trust runs a dharma shala, an Ayurvedic dispensary and a Sanskrit Maha Vidyalaya.

Besides, there are a number of Muslim *wakfs* at different places in the District, with properties attached to some of them. These properties were maintained by the Custodian Department, Government of India, up to 1961, when their administration was entrusted to the Punjab Wakf Board (with its headquarters at the Ambala Cantonment). The administration of the *wakfs* is regulated by the Central Wakf Act, 1954.

The income from the properties of the *wakfs* is spent for the upkeep of its institutions and for various charitable purposes and for promoting education, both religious and secular, of the Muslims. The income from the properties of the *wakfs* in the District during 1972-73 to 1979-80 is given below :

Year		Income
		(Rs)
1972-73	..	60,128
1973-74	..	66,163
1974-75	..	64,979
1975-76	..	87,614
1976-77	..	89,938
1977-78	..	1,16,314
1978-79	..	1,23,947
1979-80	..	1,99,510

The important *wakfs* in the District are : the Islamia Schools, Baghdadi Gate, Firozpur City ; the Mosque and Anjuman Islamia School at the Firozpur Cantonment; the Anjuman Islamia, Idgah and the graveyard at Abohar.

The staff of the Wakf Board posted in the District consists of the Wakf Officer (at Firozpur) and three rent-collectors one each at Firozpur, Fazilkā and Zira,



APPENDIX

(Vide page 407)

List of Trade Unions in the Firozpur District

Serial No.	Name of Trade Union	Date of registration
1	Municipal Employee's Union, Firozpur ..	31 May 1952
2	Satluj Flour-Mill Worker's Union, Firozpur City	19 January 1956
3	Cotton-Mill Mazdoor Union, Abohar ..	23 August 1959
4	Station Master Group Association, Firozpur ..	15 April 1960
5	Hussainiwala Border Labour Union, Firozpur	23 March 1962
6	Municipal Fire Brigade Employees' Union, Firozpur	7 March 1963
7	Municipal Mazdoor Sabha, Abohar ..	17 January 1965
8	Harjan Workers Union Cantonment Board, Firozpur City	10 August 1967
9	Cotton-Mill Mazdoor Union, Fazilka	25 August 1967
10	Abohar Cotton & Grain Merchant's Association, Abohar	8 January 1969
11	Safai Karamchari Union Nagar Palika, Firozpur City	3 March 1969
12	Bhiwani Mill Karamchari Sangh, Abohar ..	11 March 1969
13	Punjab Government Labour Union, P.W.D. B. & R. Firozpur City	28 March 1969
14	Rickshaw Worker's Union, Abohar ..	25 May 1970
15	Bakery Worker's Union, Firozpur ..	17 March 1971
16	Firozpur Agro-Industries Association, Firozpur	28 July 1971
17	Firozpur Central Co-operative Bank Employees' Union, Firozpur City	14 March 1971

Serial No.	Name of Trade Union	Date of registration	
18	Municipal Staff Union, Abohar	..	22 May 1972
19	Fazilka Central Co-operative Bank Employees Union, Fazilka	..	1 March 1973
20	Nagir Palika Karamchari Sangh, Firozpur	..	28 February 1973
21	Biscuit Bakery Workers' Union, Fazilka	..	7 November 1973
22	Safai Karamchari Union, Fazilka	..	9 September 1974
23	Safai Sewak Union Municipal Committee, Abohar	..	27 January 1975
24	Zila Firozpur Cotton & Ginning Mill Mazdoor Union, Fazilka	14 April	1975
25	M.E.S. Civilian Workers' & Employees' Union Firozpur Cantonment	..	21 February 1976
26	Galla Mazdoor Union, Firozpur	..	26 September 1976
27	Building Usari Mazdoor Union, Talwandi Bhai	11 April	1977
28	Vishkarma Union Firozpur City	..	8 August 1977
29	Cotton-Mill Labour Union, Abohar	..	25 October 1977
30	Northern Railway Welding & Trading Con- tractors' Association, Firozpur	..	2 June 1978

CHAPTER XVIII

PUBLIC LIFE AND VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Representation of the District in the State and the Union Legislatures

Historical Retrospect.—Representative Government was partially introduced into India under the Government of India Act, 1919, which created a bicameral Central Legislature, consisting of a Council of State and a Legislative Assembly, with a duration of 5 and 3 years respectively. The Act also created a legislative council in every governor's province including the Punjab, with a normal duration of 3 years.

The Government of India Act, 1919, was replaced by the Government of India Act, 1935. The Central Legislature continued as before. A bicameral legislative was introduced into the Punjab, consisting of a Legislative Assembly and a Legislative Council. The normal duration of the Punjab Legislative Assembly was 5 years. The Punjab Legislative Council was a permanent body, one-third of its members retiring every third year.

The franchise, under the aforesaid two Acts, was generally based on citizenship, residence, community, religion, race, age, sex, property, taxation, etc. Special representation was provided for commerce, industry, mining, plantation, labour, land-holders, the Punjab University, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As a result, the constituencies were of diverse nature and the qualifications for membership varied accordingly, except with respect to age.

The first General Elections under the Government of India Act, 1919, were held in 1920, simultaneously both for the Legislative Assembly and the Punjab Legislative Council. Thereafter, the elections were held at statutory intervals, with interruptions in view of further constitutional reforms.

The first general Elections, under the Government of India Act, 1935, were held in January 1937 and the second and last in March 1946. This long gap was due to the interruption in the normal working of the constitution in course of the World War II (1939—45).

General Elections held under the Constitution of India.—After the general Elections in March 1946, a Constituent Assembly was elected by the members of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies and its first sitting was held on 9 December 1946. It was entrusted with the framing of a constitution for the country. Under the Indian Independence

Act, 1947, enacted by the British Parliament on 18 July 1947, India achieved Independence on 15 August 1947. While the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly was busy with the preparation of a Draft Constitution of India, the Constituent Assembly, on 27 September 1947 called upon the provincial governments to formulate proposals for the formation of constituencies of the proposed House of the People, providing therein for the reservation of seats for the Muslims, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Indian Christians. The Draft Constitution of India was published on 26 February 1948. The Constituent Assembly in its letter, dated 15 March 1948, asked the provincial governments to take immediate steps for the preparation of the electoral rolls. It intimated that the Draft Constitution provided that elections to the Lower House of the Central and Provincial Legislatures should be held on the basis of adult franchise, the minimum age of voters being 21 years which should be calculated with reference to 1 January 1949, and that a person, who had not resided at the place of registration for at least 180 days during the year ending 31 March 1948, was not eligible for enrolment as an elector. Further it intimated that there would be no separate communal electorates and, therefore, only one composite roll for all communities should be prepared, but in order to determine whether a candidate for a reserved seat was a voter belonging to the particular community, namely, the Muslim, the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, for which the seat was reserved, the electoral roll should contain the necessary information. The Constitution of India was approved in November 1949, and enforced from 26 January 1950.

General Elections, 1951-52.—After the completion of the Census operation in 1951, steps were taken to hold elections. The task of conducting the General Elections in 1951-52, under the Constitution of India, both for the House of People (*Lok Sabha*) and State Legislative Assemblies (*Vidhan Sabha*), was of great magnitude and complexity. The influx of refugees from Pakistan, coupled with the extension of franchise from 13 per cent to about 50 per cent of the population (under universal franchise), required the preparation of almost entirely new rolls in a very limited time. The delimitation of constituencies had to be undertaken afresh ; 7,000 polling stations (including tahsils Moga and Muktsar) had to be set up in contrast with 1,300 in 1946. Thousands of subordinate staff had to be made conversant with the new and complicated election procedure.

During 1951-52, the total population of the Firozpur District was 7,20,511 (1951 census). There were, 2 Parliamentary Constituencies

(including one double-member constituency) (including parts of the Ludhiana and Hisar districts), and 8 Punjab Legislative Assembly Constituencies (including two double-member constituencies) were allocated to the District. One Assembly seat was allocated to a population of 1,00,079 or 46,571 voters and the elections were held between 26 December 1951 and 15 February 1952.

Parliamentary Constituencies¹

There were two Parliamentary constituencies in the District, viz. Fazilka-Sirsa and Firozpur-Ludhiana (double-member constituency) and these constituencies consisted of 3,60,933 and 7,64,171 electors respectively. Some area of the Fazilka-Sirsa constituency fell into the Sirsa District (now in the Haryana State), Faridkot and Bhatinda districts, whereas as the Firozpur-Ludhiana (double-member) constituency had included some area of Faridkot and Ludhiana districts. The candidate elected from the Fazilka-Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency had affiliation with the Congress, whereas both of those elected from the double-member Firozpur-Ludhiana Parliamentary Constituency had party affiliation with the Akali Dal. The number of votes polled by the different political parties was as follows :

Name of the party	Number of valid votes polled	Percentage of total valid votes polled
Indian National Congress	3,59,282	35·1
Akali Dal	3,58,519	34·9
Independents	1,79,616	17·5
Scheduled Castes Federation	1,16,057	11·3
Jan Sangh	12,672	1·2
Total	10,26,146	100

Punjab Legislative Assembly Constituencies²

For the Punjab Legislative Assembly, there were 11 constituencies consisting of 13 seats, in the District. In 1972, Mehna, Bagha Purana,

¹Report of the First General Legislative Elections in the Punjab State, held under the Constitution of India, 1951-52 (Simla, 1952), pp. 69-70, 104-07

²Ibid, 79-80, 188-201

Muktsar and Kot Bhai (double-member) constituencies of the Firozpur District were transferred to the newly created Faridkot District. The constituencies left in the present Firozpur District, were Moga-Dharamkot (double-member constituency), Khuian Sarwar, Abohar, Mallanwala, Firozpur, Guru Har Sahai and Fazilka.

During 1951-52, the total population of the District was 7,20,511 persons and the electors were 3,96,892. Out of the 8 elected candidates, 2 had affiliation with the Akali Dal, 3 with the Congress, and 3 Independents. The total number of votes polled by each party is given hereunder :

Name of the Party	Total number of votes polled	Percentage
Independents	81,043	30·87
Indian National Congress	99,185	37·18
Shiromani Akali Dal	42,652	16·34
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	22,558	8·69
Communist Party	9,212	3·72
Forward Bloc	1,320	0·40
Punjab State Socialist Party	6,539	2·80
Total	2,62,509	100

General Elections, 1957.—The experience of the first General Elections in 1951-52 proved to be exceedingly useful in the second General Elections in 1957. The latter elections in the State were, however, attended in some respects with even greater difficulty than the first General Elections. The area and the electorate involved had become much larger with the merger of the erstwhile Pepsu and Punjab on 1 November 1956, whereas the total period for the poll was reduced appreciably (i.e. 24 February to 14 March 1957). At the same time, the delimitation of the constituencies had to be effected only a few weeks before the constituencies were called upon to elect members, with the result that the necessary arrangements had to be rushed through in the minimum time.

The population of the Firozpur District (excluding the Moga and Muktsar tahsils transferred to the Faridkot District in 1972) was 7,20,511 (1951 Census). The total number of electors was 3,37,874. In accordance with the report of the Delimitation Commission, 1 Lok Sabha Constituency and 5 Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies (including 1 double-member constituency) were allocated to the District.

Lok Sabha Constituency¹

The Lok Sabha Constituency in the District was the Firozpur Constituency. The candidate elected from it had affiliation with the Congress. The number of votes polled by the different parties was as follows :

Name of the party	Total number of votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1,20,548	43·1
Communist Party of India	73,109	26·3
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	41,702	14·9
Independents	23,378	8·3
Praja Socialist Party	20,467	7·4
Total	2,79,204	100

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies²

The 5 Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies in the District comprised 6 seats, there being 1 double-member constituency and one reserved for the Scheduled Castes. The names of these constituencies were : Abohar, Fazilka, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur and Zira.

Out of the 6 elected candidates, 5 had affiliation with the Congress and 1 with the Jan Sangh. The number of votes polled by the different contesting parties is given hereunder :

¹Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1957 (Chandigarh, 1959), pp. 93, 130

²Ibid pp. 113—115, 139—140

Name of the party	Total number of votes polled	Percen- tage
Indian National Congress	.. 1,11,395	42.44
Communist Party of India	.. 33,148	12.65
Independents	.. 65,995	25.34
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	.. 38,429	14.76
Praja Socialist Party	.. 2,043	0.85
Socialist Party	.. 1,887	0.75
Scheduled Caste Federation	.. 2,612	3.21
Total	.. 2,62,509	100

General Elections, 1962.—The entire poll was conducted throughout the then Punjab State, except in the snow-bound Kulu and Seraj constituencies, on a single day on 24 February 1962, both for the Lok Sabha and the Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

The Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961, abolished the two-member constituencies for the Vidhan Sabhas and the Lok Sabha. Under the Act, the Election Commission, India, was empowered to divide each of the two-member constituencies into two single member-constituencies, delimit the extent, decide in which of them the seat should be reserved for the Scheduled Castes and to amend and revise the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956, accordingly. The final decision taken by the Election Commission was incorporated into the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1961, issued on 7 December 1961. According to this order, in the present Firozpur District, there was one Lok Sabha Constituency, i.e. the Ferozpur Constituency, and 6 Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies, i.e. Abohar, Fazilka, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Zira and Dharamkot (reserved for a member of the Scheduled Castes Constituencies. Out of the total population of 8,79,599 (1961 Census) of the District, the number of electors was 3,90,095.

LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCIES¹

There was one Lok Sabha Constituency in the District, i.e. Firozpur Constituency. The candidate elected from this constituency had affiliation with the Congress. The total number of votes polled by each of the contesting parties was as follows :

Name of the party	Total number of of votes polled	Percent- age
Indian National Congress	.. 1,15,913	36·69
Shiromani Akali Dal	.. 44,115	13·96
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	.. 83,761	26·64
Communist Party of India	.. 65,655	21·82
Independents	.. 10,963	0·89
Total	.. 3,20,407	100

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA CONSTITUENCIES²

The 6 Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the District were : Abohar, Fazilka, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Zira and Dharamkot (S.C.)

Out of the 6 elected candidates from the above constituencies, 1 had affiliation with the Congress, 2 with the Akali Dal (Master Group), 2 with the Jan Sangh and 1 was Independent. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the District was as follows :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percent- age
Indian National Congress	.. 95,476	39·48
Shiromani Akali Dal (Master Group)	.. 49,130	20·32
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	.. 50,798	21·01
Independents, including other unrecognized parties	46,427	19·19
Total	.. 2,41,831	100

¹Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1962 (Chandigarh, 1963,
pp. 1, 8, 42, 60, 88

²Ibid, pp. 75-77, 95-96

General Elections, 1967. The General Elections held in 1967 were the fourth in the country and the first in the new State of the Punjab, which came into being on 1 November 1966 after the reorganization of the State. The constituencies delimited in 1965 were subjected to delimitation, as notified by the Delimitation Commission in November 1966. According to the present Firozpur District, there were 2 Lok Sabha Constituencies and 8 Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies. Out of the total population of 8,79,599 (1961 Census) of the District, the number of electors was 4,71,290. As was the case during the third General Elections in 1962, the poll in 1967 was held throughout the State in a single day on 19 February 1967.

LOK SABHA CONSTITUENCIES¹

The two Lok Sabha Constituencies in the District were Fazilka and Firozpur. The candidate elected from the Fazilka Constituency had affiliation with the Congress, whereas that elected from the Firozpur constituency had affiliation with the Akali Dal (Sant Group). The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the District was as follows :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percent-age
Indian National Congress	2,68,506	41·00
Shiromani Akali Dal (Sant Group)	1,62,198	24·77
Communist Party of India	92,453	14·12
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	88,046	13·45
Independents	19,564	2·99
Shiromani Akali Dal (Master Group)	14,817	2·26
Swatantra Party	9,273	1·41
Total	6,54,857	100

¹Report on General Elections in Punjab, 1967 (Chandigarh, 1968), p 65

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA CONSTITUENCIES¹

The 8 Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies in the District were : Abohar, Fazilka, Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Firozpur Cantonment, Zira and Dharmkot.

Out of the 8 candidates elected from the above constituencies, 3 had affiliation with the Congress, 2 with the Akali Dal (Sant Group), 1 with the Communist Party of India, 1 with the Jan Sangh, and 1 was Independent. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the District was as follows :—

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percent- age
Indian National Congress	.. 1,33,545	41·27
Shiromani Akali Dal (Sant Group)	.. 62,231	19·23
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	.. 57,842	17·90
Communist Party of India	.. 20,046	6·19
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	.. 6,720	2·07
Shiromani Akali Dal (Master Group)	.. 4,762	1·52
Independents	.. 38,427	11·82
Total	.. 3,23,573	100

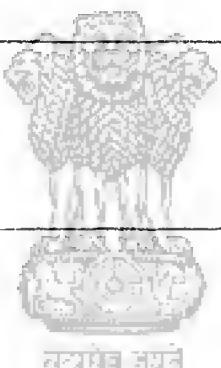
Mid-term General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1969.—In the fourth General Elections, 1967, no single political party had obtained absolute majority in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Therefore not long after, a situation was created. In that situation, no single party or workable alliance of parties could provide a stable Government. In the circumstances, as recommended by the Governor, Punjab, the President of India issued a proclamation on 23 August 1968, under Article 356 of the Constitution of India placing the State of Punjab under the Presidential Rule. Thus the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, constituted in 1967, stood dissolved, necessitating a mid-term general elections so as to constitute a new Vidhan Sabha.

¹ *Ibid* , pp. 68—71

The entire poll was conducted throughout the State on a single day on 9 February 1969. Out of the total population of 8,79,599 (1961 Census) of the District, the number of electors was 5,07,497.

This election was held in the same 8 Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the District as were delimited in the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1966, and were in force at the time of the Fourth General Elections, 1967. The names of these constituencies were : Abohar, Fazilka, Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Firozpur Cantonment, Zira and Dharmkot¹.

Out of the 8 candidates elected from the above Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituencies, 4 had affiliation with the Congress, 1 with the Akali Dal, 2 with the Jan Sangh and 1 with the Janta Party. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the District was as follows :

Name of the party		Total number of valid votes polled	Percent-age
Indian National Congress		.. 1,27,771	35.06
Akali Dal		.. 62,615	16.72
Bhartiya Jan Sangh		.. 81,614	22.05
Communist Party of India		.. 12,576	3.39
Communist Party of India (Marxist)		.. 6,871	1.73
Independents		.. 46,538	12.57
Janta		.. 29,129	7.77
Others		.. 2,993	0.71
 Total		.. 3,70,107	100

¹Report on the Mid-term General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1966, (Chandigarh, 1971) pp. 1, 5, 41, 43-44, 46-48, 54-55

Fifth General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 1971.—There was only one Lok Sabha constituency in the District, viz. Firozpur. The Congress candidate was declared successful from this constituency. The total number of electors in the District was 5,37,573. The total number of valid votes polled by each of the contesting parties in the District was as under :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress	1,60,813	56.41
Akali Dal	1,07,887	37.84
Congress (O)	8,635	3.03
Samyukta Socialist Party	2,796	0.98
Independents	4,965	1.74
Total	2,85,096	100.00

Source : (Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Fifth General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1972.—The fifth general elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha were necessitated owing to the premature dissolution of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituted in March 1969. It was for the second time that the President's rule was imposed on the State. In the wake of the President's rule, emergency was declared owing to the Indo-Pakistan conflict in 1971. The preparation for the conduct of the new general elections had, therefore, to be made under the shadow of emergency. The poll throughout the State was held on a single day, i.e. on 11 March 1972.

There were 8 Punjab Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the present Firozpur District, viz. Abohar, Fazilka, Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Firozpur Cantonment, Zira and Dharmkot. The total number of electors in the District was 5,42,936. From these constituencies, 5 Congress, 2 Akalis, and 1 Communist Party of India candidates were elected. The number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties

in the District was as under¹ :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress	.. 1,67,223	45·62
Akali	.. 62,497	17·34
Communist Party of India	.. 36,909	10·07
Jan Sangh	.. 37,366	10·20
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	.. 955	0·21
Congress (O)	.. 758	0·22
Socialists	.. 9,723	2·54
Independents	.. 51,155	13·70
 Total	.. 3,66,586	100

Sixth General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 1977.—The Sixth General Elections to the Lok Sabha were held on 16 March 1977. For the first time since independence, the reins of the Central Government passed into the hands of the bloc of four opposition parties—the Janata Party, consisting of the Organization Congress, the Bhartiya Lok Dal, the Jan Sangh and the Socialist Party. This bloc was voted into office with overwhelming majority by the bloc of electorate in the northern States. The result of the Firozpur Constituency was not declared owing to some unavoidable circumstances, created by the parties and repolling was held on 26 April 1977.

The Lok Sabha elections were not accompanied with elections to the State Assemblies, whose terms of office in most cases were due to expire in 1978. The Janata Government decided to call early elections in a number of States on the plea that a climate of uncertainty had come to prevail in them in the wake of the virtual rejection in the Lok Sabha elections of the Congress candidates in several States. Consequently, the elections to some States, including the Punjab were held. In the Punjab, the Lok Sabha elections were held on 12 June 1977 and were completed on the same day. In the elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, the Akali Dal and the Janata Party obtained the majority of votes, defeating the Congress. Consequently, on 20 June 1977, the Akali-Janata formed a Coalition Government in the Punjab.

¹Report on the General Elections to the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, 1972 (Chandigarh, 1974), p. 53

Lok Sabha Constituency

There was only one Lok Sabha Constituency in the Firozpur District, viz. Firozpur. The total number of electors in the District was 6,31,895. The Akali Dal candidate won the seat. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the District was as under :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress	1,38,835	33·57
Shiromani Akali Dal	80,826	19·55
Janata	86,728	21·00
Communist Party of India	45,296	10·95
Independents	61,733	14·93
Total	4,13,418	100

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituency

There were 9 Vidhan Sabha Constituencies in the Firozpur District, viz. Balluana (reserved for the member of the Scheduled Castes), Abohar, Fazilka, Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Firozpur Cantonment, Zira and Dharmkot (reserved for the member of the Scheduled Castes). The total number of electors in the District was 6,53,878. From these Vidhan Sabha constituencies, 4 Congress, 2 Shiromani Akali Dal, 2 Communist Party of India and 1 Janata Party candidates were elected. The total number of votes polled by each contesting party is given below :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Congress	1,38,835	33·58
Shiromani Akali Dal	80,826	19·55
Communist Party of India	45,296	10·95
Janata	86,728	20·97
Others	61,724	14·95
Total	4,13,409	100

Bye-Election to the Firozpur Cantonment Constituency for the Punjab Vidhan Sabha.—This bye-election was held on 3 January 1980, as the election of the elected candidate was declared void. The Shiromani Akali Dal candidate won the seat. The total number of valid votes polled in favour of each of the contesting parties in the constituency was as follows :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Shiromani Akali Dal ..	26,590	49·55
Indian National Congress (I) ..	26,508	49·37
Independents ..	576	1·08
Total ..	53,674	100

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Seventh (Mid-Term) General Elections to the Lok Sabha, 1980.—In the Sixth General Elections to the Lok Sabha, the Janata Party, consisting of the Organisation Congress, the Bhartiya Lok Dal, the Jan Sangh and Socialist Party, was voted to power by an overwhelming majority. The Shiromani Akali Dal also supported the Janata Party and it formed the Ministry in March 1977. After some time, defections started and a Cabinet Minister belonging to Janata Party defected along with some other Members of Parliament and formed his Ministry in August 1979, with the support of Congress (I) Party. The adjustment and compromise between the Ministry and the supporting Congress (I) Party could not hold them for a longer period because of inherent political differences between the two parties. Consequently, the Congress (I) withdrew its support and the Ministry fell without facing the Parliament even once. The Lok Sabha formed in 1977 was dissolved by the President under sub-clause (b) of Clause (2) of Article 85 of the Constitution on 22 August 1979, for mid-term elections for constituting the new house.

Lok Sabha Constituency

Firozpur was the only Lok Sabha Constituency in the Firozpur District in the (Mid-term) General Elections, 1980. The Congress candidate was elected from this constituency. The total number of electors for the constituency was 7,55,567 and the total number of valid votes polled by each contesting party was as under :

Name of the party	Total number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress (I)	3,08,915	68.72
Indian National Congress (U)	1,14,701	25.51
Bhartiya Janata Party (S)	3,321	0.72
Independents	22,804	5.05
Total	4,49,741	100

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

Punjab Vidhan Sabha Constituency

The Seventh (Mid-Term) General Elections throughout the State and the country was held on 3 January 1980. Out of the total population of 10,44,936 (1971 Census) of the Firozpur District, the number of electors was 7,55,567 for the Lok Sabha and 7,66,350 for the Vidhan Sabha.

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha, constituted on 12 June 1977, whose term of office was due to expire in 1982, was also dissolved by the President under Article 356 of the Constitution on 25 April 1980. The Mid-Term General Elections of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha were held on 31 May 1980 and completed on the same day. In these elections, the Congress Party obtained a majority of votes, defeating the Akali and Janata Party candidates. In June 1980, it formed its Government in the State.

There were 9 Vidhan Sabha constituencies in the Firozpur District, viz. Balluana (reserved for a member of Scheduled Castes), Abohar, Fazilka, Jalalabad, Guru Har Sahai, Firozpur, Firozpur Cantonment, Zira and Dharamkot (reserved for a member of the Scheduled Castes). The total number of electors in the district was 7,66,350. From these constituencies, 6 Congress (I), 1 Bhartiya Janata Party, 1 Shiromani Akali

Dal and 1 Communist Party of India candidates were elected. The number of valid votes polled by each contesting party is given below :

Name of the party		Number of valid votes polled	Percentage
Indian National Congress (I)	..	2,32,270	48.28
Shiromani Akali Dal	..	58,281	12.12
Bhartiya Janata Party	..	1,01,475	21.09
Janata (SC)	..	10,109	2.16
Communist Party of India	..	64,227	13.35
Independents	..	14,402	2.95
Indian National Congress (U)	..	256	0.05

(Source : Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)

(b) Political Parties and Organizations

A parliamentary type of democracy presupposes the existence of well-organized political parties. In India, political parties have been in existence for quite some time past, but they were not quite well-organized. In fact, some of them were mere splinter groups of disgruntled persons belonging to some other major parties. The adoption of the British Parliamentary system of Government after Independence, however, called for their reorganization on solid lines if they wanted to exist. As a result of mergers and amalgamations, a number of well-organized all-India parties and State Parties have been left in the political field.

During most of the period since Independence (1947), Indian politics has evolved around one dominant political party, the Indian National Congress, and several smaller opposition parties. The role of the opposition parties up to 1977 remained restricted to the influencing of the policies of the ruling party rather than to the challenging of its monopoly of power when the reins of the Central Government passed into the hands of the bloc of four former opposition parties, consisting of the Organization Congress, the Bhartiya Lok Dal, the Jan Sangh and the Socialist Party, all combining to form the Janata Party. Thereafter, the Indian National Congress again came into power with an overwhelming majority in the Mid-Term Elections held in January 1980.

A brief description of these parties is given below :

All-India Parties

Indian National Congress.—This is by far the largest political organization in India. Having been founded in 1885 with the sole purpose of fighting for self-Government, the party has emerged as the strongest political organization which has all along been in the vanguard of the country's struggle for freedom. After Independence up to 1977, the Congress continued to be the most powerful political party in India, and now it is ruling at the Centre and in the Punjab.

The main objectives of the party since Independence have been to create a socialistic pattern of society, to rid the masses of their poverty, and to close the gap between the rich and the poor.

On the basis of the first five General Elections, the Congress Party controlled the Lok Sabha. It was pushed out of power in the Sixth General Elections in 1977 and again captured power in 1980 at the Centre and in the Punjab. In the Firozpur District, the Congress Party captured all the seats in the Lok Sabha elections held in 1957, 1962, 1971 and 1980. Likewise, in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha elections, it won 3 seats each time in 1951-52 and 1967, 4 and 5 seats in 1969 and 1972 out of 8 seats, 5 and 1 in 1957 and 1962 out of 6 seats, 4 and 6 in 1977 and 1980 out of 9 seats.

There is a District Congress Committee at Firozpur, and the City Congress Committees in the different towns in the District.

Communist Party of India.—Among the opposition parties, the Communist Party of India has the longest record of existence. It was founded in 1924. The results of the first General Elections, 1951-52, unmistakably brought out the Communist Party of India as a political party with considerable backing. It further improved its position in the subsequent elections and has become one of the major opposition parties in the country.² This party never captured any seat to the Lok Sabha in the Firozpur District. However, it won 2 seats to the elections of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha held in 1962 out of 6 seats, 1 in 1967 and 1972 out of 8 seats, 2 in 1977 and 1 in 1980 out of 9 seats.

1. B. L. Sukhwal, India: A Political Geography (Bombay, 1971), pp. 132
134, 138, 162-63

2. Ibid., p. 134

Communist Party of India (Marxist).—The Communist Party is represented in the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the Punjab Vidhan Sabha. The structure of the Party is the branch in the factory, other establishments and villages, with the local or town committee above it, then the *Taluk Committee*, the District Committee, State Committee and the Central Committee. This party never won any seat in the District.

Samyukta Socialist/Praja Socialist Party.—The socialist parties trace their origin to the Congress Socialist Party (C.S.P.) which came into existence in 1934 as a radical group within the Indian National Congress. After the achievement of Independence in 1947, the position of the C.S.P. as a party within the Indian National Congress having become somewhat anomalous, it reconstituted itself as an independent political force in 1948.

The history of the socialist parties of India is a history of mergers and splits. In 1952, the Socialist Party and the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (K.M.P.P.) unified themselves to form the Praja Socialist Party (P.S.P.). In 1955, there was a split in the P.S.P. which led to the separate formation of the Socialist Party. Again in 1964, both the parties merged to form the Samyukta Socialist Party (S.S.P.). This unity was also short-lived and, in 1965, the members of the former P.S.P. separated themselves from the S.S.P. Since then, both the Samyukta Socialist Party (S.S.P.) and the Praja Socialist Party (P.S.P.) have retained their separate entities.

Republican Party of India.—This party is a reorganized form of the Scheduled Castes Federation, established by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, to be in opposition to the Congress and caste Hindus. It aims at safeguarding the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Backward Classes.

The Republican Party of India is divided into two groups, viz. the Republican Party of India and the Republican Party of India (Ambedkar Group).

Swatantra Party.—Among the rightist groups, the Swatantra and Jan Sangh developed as important parties during the Fourth General Elections in 1967.¹

Bhartiya Jan Sangh.—The branch of this all-India party was established in the District in 1951. It has its local branches in urban as well as in rural areas, but enjoys comparatively more influence in the former. The Bhartiya Jan Sangh stands for the maintenance of the Indian traditions, culture and heritage. This party never captured any seat to the Lok Sabha

¹Motilal A. Jhangiani *Jana Sangh and Swatantra : A Profile of the Rightist Parties in India* (Bombay, 1967), p. 182.

from the Firozpur District. It won 1 seat in 1957 and 2 seats in 1962 out of 6 seats, 1 seat in 1962 and 2 seats in 1969 out of 8 Punjab Vidhan Sabha seats in the general and mid-term elections.

Janata Party.—In the beginning, the Janata Party was merely a State party and came forward to take part in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha mid-term elections, held in 1969. At the Central level, it came into being when the bloc of four opposition parties, viz. Congress (O), the Bhartiya Lok Dal, the Jan Sangh and the Socialist Party, merged with the Janata Party. It jointly contested the Sixth Lok Sabha General Elections, held in March 1977. Its candidate has never captured any seat in the Lok Sabha elections held in the Firozpur District. However, the Janata Party won one seat each in the Vidhan Sabha elections, held in 1969, 1977 and 1980.

State Parties

From among these, mention may be made only of the following :

Shiromani Akali Dal.—Founded in 1920, the Shiromani Akali Dal launched the Gurudwara Reform Movement during 1920-25. After successfully liberating the *gurudwaras* from the *mahants*, this religious body assumed the political role as representative body of the Sikhs and participated in the country's freedom struggle. In 1967, it emerged as the second major party in the State and the strongest party in the United Front Government in the Punjab. In March 1969, it formed its own Government, which continued up to June 1971, and in June, 1977, the Dal, with the support of Janata Party, formed a coalition government which lasted up to 25 April 1980. In the Firozpur District, this party captured 2 seats out of 3 seats in 1951-52, 1 seat out of 2 seats in 1967 and all seats in 1977 in the Lok Sabha Elections. In the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Elections, generally, this party has been winning 25 to 33 per cent of the seats.

The position of the different parties in the Lok Sabha and the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on the basis of the general elections held from time to time, is given in the following statement :

Party position in the Lok Sabha and the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Elections in the Firozpur District

	Lok Sabha						Punjab Vidhan Sabha					
	Name of party	General Elections 1951-52	General Elections 1957	General Elections 1962	General Elections 1967	General Elections 1971	G (M.T.) Elections 1977	General Elections 1977	General Elections 1979	General Elections 1980	General Elections 1980	General Elections 1980
ALL INDIA PARTIES												
Indian National Congress	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	3	5	1	3
Communist Party of India
Communist Party of India (Marxist)
Praja Socialist Party
Republican Party of India
Swatantra Party
Bhartiya Jan Sangh	1	2	1	2	..
Janta Party	1	..	1	1
STATE PARTIES												
Shiromani Akali Dal	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	2
Shiromani Akali Dal(Sant Group)	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..

Shromani Akali Dal (Master Group)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Independents Including unrecognized parties	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	8	6	6	8	9

(Reports on General Elections, in Punjab, 1951-52, 1957, 1961, 1967, 1969 and 1972 and Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh)



(c) Newspapers and Periodicals

If not of foremost importance, at least of great importance, is the fourth estate, as it is popularly called, viz. newspapers and periodicals. This agency educates public opinion and enriches public life. The press takes a leading initiative in creating political consciousness and expressing freely and sympathetically the grievances of the common man. It is, in fact, a powerful agency for revealing public opinion.

Newspapers and Periodicals Published in the District and Their Importance

The history of the growth of journalism in the District is a chequered one. A Punjabi periodical, viz. *Punjabi Bhain*, was being published about the middle of the second decade of the present century. An Urdu paper, viz. *Danda Weekly*, edited and published by Behari Lal Dewana, a veteran Congressite of the District, was published from Firozpur in 1928. Its publication was stopped by the British Government and Dewana was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment. On his release, he started another Urdu weekly, *Daur-i-Jadid* in 1929, along with the *Danda Weekly*. Both these papers, however, died as no press was prepared to undertake their publication on account of their nationalistic views. Shri Dewana brought out another paper, viz. *Yamood Weekly*, in 1933. Another weekly, *Bijli*, was started by Master Hari Krishan Das in 1929. Its publication also ceased in 1932 on the imprisonment of its editor. But he started another paper, *Nishat Weekly* in 1938. Still another paper, *Mustar*, was started by Khalil Dehlvi. Though stopped soon after, yet it resumed publication under the new name, *Shaula*. In order to avoid the wrath of the British Government, the above-mentioned Behari Lal Dewana started another paper, *Salar Weekly*, in 1936, under the assumed editorship of Muhammad Din. It continued publication up to the death of Muhammad Din in about 1940. During that period, another paper *Paigham*, was started and it served as the spokesman of the Shia Muslims. Muhammad Yasin Bat started *Daily Waqt* from Firozpur in 1936 and continued its publication up to the partition of the country in 1947. Behari Lal Dewana again started two more weeklies *Janta* in 1946 and *Selab* in 1947 but both of them stopped publication owing to one reason or another. In 1951, he started *Chingari Weekly* which continues to be published from Firozpur. There is no daily newspaper published in the District .

The particulars with respect to the newspapers and periodicals,

published in the District, are given below :

Newspapers and Periodicals Published in Firozpur District

Sr. No.	Name of newspaper/ periodical	Place of publication	Year when started	Language
WEEKLIES				
1	<i>Moti</i>	.. Fazilka	1960	Urdu
2	<i>Yug Marg</i>	.. Abohar	1972	Hindi
3	<i>Mazdoor Hukari</i>	.. Fazilka	1972	Hindi
4	<i>Johri</i>	.. Firozpur City	1967	Urdu
5	<i>Khan</i>	.. Firozpur City	1972	Urdu
6	<i>Khair Khwah Sarkar Wa Public</i>	Firozpur City	1965	Urdu
FORTNIGHTLIES				
7	<i>Quammi Ekta</i>	.. Firozpur City	1963	Urdu
8	<i>Rafiq-E-Khalik</i>	.. Fazilka	1972	Urdu
9	<i>Taksal</i>	.. Firozpur City	1967	Urdu
MONTHLIES				
10	<i>Kamal Wani</i>	.. Firozpur Cantonment	1973	Hindi
11	<i>Amrol Beopar</i>	.. Firozpur Cantonment	1973	Hindi
12	<i>Thos Awaz</i>	.. Firozpur Cantonment	1970	Hindi
13	<i>Jagjit</i>	.. Firozpur Cantonment	1964	Urdu & Punjabi
14	<i>Sadai Freedom</i>	.. Firozpur City	1975	Urdu
HALF-YEARLY				
15	<i>Fountain</i>	.. Fazilka	1941	English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi
16	<i>Ram Singh Dass</i>	.. Firozpur City	1953	English, Hindi and Punjabi
17	<i>Chatak</i>	.. Firozpur City	1961	Ditto
18	<i>Seeman Jyoti</i>	.. Abohar	1962 (1964)	Hindi, English, Sanskrit and Punjabi
ANNUALS				
19	<i>Manohar</i>	.. Firozpur Cantonment	1973	Hindi, English and Punjabi
20	<i>Shiv Joti</i>	.. Firozpur Cantonment	1972	Hindi, English and Punjabi

(Press In India, 1976, Part II, 20th Annual Report of the the Registrar of Newspapers for India)

The following newspapers and periodicals, published outside the District, are in circulation in the District :

Sr. No.	Name of newspaper/ periodical	Place of publication	Language	Periodicity
NEWSPAPERS				
1	<i>The Tribune</i>	.. Chandigarh	English	Daily
2	<i>Indian Express</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
3	<i>The Hindustan Times</i>	.. New Delhi	Do	Do
4	<i>The Times of India</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
5	<i>The Statesman</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
6	<i>National Herald</i>	Do	Do	Do
7	<i>Hindi Milap</i>	.. Jalandhar	Hindi	Do
8	<i>Punjab Kesari</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
9	<i>Vir Pratap</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
10	<i>Danik Tribune</i>	.. Chandigarh	Do	Do
11	<i>Nar Bharat Times</i>	.. Delhi	Do	Do
12	<i>Punjabi Tribune</i>	.. Chandigarh	Punjabi	Do
13	<i>Ajit</i>	.. Jalandhar	Do	Do
14	<i>Akali Patrika</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
15	<i>Nawan Zamana</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
16	<i>Lok Lehr</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
17	<i>Jagwan</i>	.. Jalandhar	Do	Do
18	<i>Ranjit</i>	.. Patiala	Do	Do
19	<i>Chardikia</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
20	<i>Hind Samachar</i>	.. Jalandhar	Urdu	Do
21	<i>Milap</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
22	<i>Pratap</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
PERIODICAL				
1	<i>Illustrated Weekly of India</i>	Bombay	English	Weekly
2	<i>Filmfare</i>	.. Do	Do	Fortnightly
3	<i>Femina</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
4	<i>Blitz</i>	.. Do	Do	Weekly
5	<i>Mirror</i>	.. Do	Do	Monthly
6	<i>Sports Week</i>	.. Do	Do	Weekly

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Sr. No.	Name of newspaper/ periodical	Place of publication	Language	Periodicity
7	<i>Bhawani Journal</i>	.. Bombay	English	Weekly
8	<i>Reader's Digest</i>	.. Do	Do	Monthly
9	<i>Science To-day</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
10	<i>Dharmyug</i>	.. Do	Hindi	Weekly
11	<i>Indarjaal Komics</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
12	<i>Navneet</i>	.. Do	Do	Monthly
13	<i>Link</i>	.. New Delhi	English	Weekly
14	<i>Employment News</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
15	<i>Surya</i>	.. Do	Do	Monthly
16	<i>Caravan</i>	.. Delhi	Do	Fortnightly
17	<i>India To-day</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
18	<i>Competition Success Review</i>	Do	Do	Monthly
19	<i>Science Reporter</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
20	<i>Sarita</i>	.. New Delhi	Hindi	Fortnightly
21	<i>Sushama</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
22	<i>Lot Pot</i>	.. Do	Do	Weekly
23	<i>Mayapuri</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
24	<i>Nandan</i>	.. Delhi	Do	Monthly
25	<i>Champic</i>	.. New Delhi	Do	Do
26	<i>Manorma</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
27	<i>Frag</i>	.. Delhi	Do	Monthly
28	<i>Aarst</i>	.. Do	Punjabi	Do
29	<i>Akkis</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
30	<i>Sachitra-Kaumi Eketa</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
31	<i>Neelmani</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
32	<i>Shama</i>	.. Do	Urdu	Monthly
33	<i>Beeswini Sadli</i>	.. New Dehli	Do	Do
34	<i>Art of Living</i>	.. Amritsar	English	Do
35	<i>Preet Lail</i>	.. Prit Nagar, (Distt. Amritsar)	Punjabi	Do
36	<i>Bal Sandesh</i>	.. Do	Do	Do
37	<i>Tasvir</i>	.. Jalandhar	Do	Do

Sr. No.	Name of newspaper/ periodical	Place of publication	Language	Periodicity
38	<i>The Competition Master</i> ..	Chandigarh	English	Do
39	<i>Jagriti</i> ..	Do	Punjabi	Do
40	<i>Current Topics</i> ..	Ambala Canton- ment	English	Do
41	<i>Vesakarand Kendra Patrika</i> ..	Madras	Do	Bi-annually
42	<i>Chandamama</i> ..	Do	Hindi, Punjabi, etc.	Monthly
43	<i>Sunday</i> ..	Calcutta	English	Weekly
44	<i>Sikh Review</i> ..	Do	Do	Monthly
45	<i>Punjabi Dunian</i> ..	Patiala	Punjabi	Do
46	<i>Jan Sahit</i> ..	Do	Do	Do
47	<i>Sahit Samachar</i> ..	Ludhiana	Do	Do
48	<i>Changi Kheti</i> ..	Ludhiana (P.A.U)	Do	Do
49	<i>Kahani</i> ..	Allahabad	Hindi	Do
50	<i>Kalyan</i> ..	Gorakhpur (U.P.)	Do	Do
51	<i>Savasth Aur Jiwan</i> ..	Poona	Do	Do
52	<i>Vishiv Joti</i> ..	Hoshiarpur	Do	Do

(d) Voluntary Social Service Organizations

The humanitarian urge to organize voluntary associations serving a social purpose is a universal feature. Social service in the past was voluntary and not organized in the modern sense of the term, functioning through separate organizations and institutions established for specific purposes. It was spontaneous and made available by the chiefs and well-to-do persons to meet the exigencies of the time and the needs of the people. This particularly happened during the time of calamities, such as famine or scarcity.

Voluntary social service organized by concerted public efforts is a recent phenomenon, closely associated with the democratic form of government, promising equal status and opportunities to all sections of society. The field of social service is one where State efforts must be supplemented by close and intensive public co-operation to ensure quick results in the working of various schemes sponsored by the government. The welfare of the handicapped and disadvantaged sections of society, such as women, children, illiterates, the sick and disabled persons, and the members of the backward classes of society, has been engaging the attention of the State and the people to a great extent in recent times.

This natural urge to organize voluntary associations to meet the needs of social and cultural uplift of the people has found greater scope and expression after Independence as a result of popular awakening and encouragement from the State in various fields of public activity. In the Firozpur District there are a number of voluntary institutions serving the social needs of the people in a number of ways. These institutions not only complement and supplement governmental effort in many fields, but also cover fields of ameliorative service which the Government may not be in a position to cover. These institutions have played an important part in the educational, social and cultural development of the District. Many of them were pioneers in particular spheres of social activity, and, on account of their constant and commendable service, some of them have won recognition from the Government and have received assistance and guidance from it.

The existence of such voluntary social service organizations gives a richness to the institutional life which mere governmental action can never impart. The Government have increasingly recognized this aspect and have encouraged and utilized the agency of these institutions for the greater effectiveness of their own efforts. Thus State and voluntary organizations have been playing a mutually helpful role in the development of the District.

The voluntary social-service organizations in the District are mentioned below :

General-Welfare Institutions

(ii) District Council for the Welfare of the Handicapped, Firozpur

The Council runs the Home for the Blind at Firozpur. Started in April 1956, the Home has developed into an institute. Its main objects are the welfare, uplift and rehabilitation of the blind.

The admission to the Home is open to the blind in the age-group of 6 to 16 years. The existing number of the inmates is 45. During the training period, they are provided with everything free of cost, viz. training, board and lodging, clothing, equipment, medicines, raw materials and welfare amenities.

The Home is affiliated to the National Association for the Blind, Bombay, and the Indian Red Cross Society (District Branch), Firozpur. It gives training to the inmates in different crafts, viz. caning of chairs, making of cycle baskets and other baskets, candle-making, soap-making, chick-making, stringing of charpoys, and weaving. The Home

has also arrangements for academic education through the Bhartiya *braille* script. Arrangements have also been made for higher education. Besides, the Home has started courses in Music (Vocal and Instrumental) which prepare the trainees for the examinations of the Prayag Sangit Samiti and the Paracheen Kala Kendra, Chandigarh.

For the rehabilitation of the inmates, the management have provided the trained blind with work by expanding the existing workshop. The workers are paid wages according to market rates and are provided with free board, lodging, clothing, etc.

Women's Organizations

Women's organizations in the past were very few. They mainly confined their activities to the providing of opportunities for women to learn sewing, knitting, embroidering and the like and they get medical facilities at the time of child birth. Of the women's organizations in the District, those worth mentioning are given below :

Arya Mahila Propkarni Sabha (Regd.), Abohar

Formed in 1951 by some enthusiastic lady social workers, the Sabha was registered in the same year. It helps the poor children in their education by paying their fees and supplying them with books and clothes. Many poor and old men and women are provided with free ration and clothes. Any sick person, who cannot afford to spend money on the treatment of his illness, is helped by the *Sabha* in the form of medical aid and medicines. The *Sabha* maintains a library for the use of women. It also runs a craft school, in which grown-up girls and women learn cutting, sewing by hand and with the sewing-machine, hand and machine embroidery, *tilla* work, *silma* work, etc. The *Sabha* has built a big hall, with four rooms, which are used for prayers and running the craft classes.

The main source of income of the *Sabha* is monthly or annual subscriptions from the public in cash and kind.

Nari Shilp Niketan, Firozpur City

Started in 1946, this institution is run by a body of lady social workers of the city. It is a registered body and is run under the patronage of the All-India Women Conference.

The institution helps the poor and destitute women, widows and discarded women and girls by giving the training in different arts and crafts, e.g. hand and machine embroidery, carpet-making, soap making, *durrie*-making, hosiery, knitting by hand and with hand-driven machines. About

a hundred girls and women receive training every year in the subjects of their choice. The trained hands are also provided with order work to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Other Organizations

There are also a few other organizations functioning in smaller fields but doing useful work in their own spheres. Of these, mention may be made of the following :

Arya Anathalaya, Firozpur Cantonment

Originally started in 1877, its foundation-stone was laid by the founder of the Arya Smaj, Swami Dayanand. It is affiliated to the Arya Pradeshik Sabha, Delhi, and the Arya Up-Pradeshik Sabha, Jalandhar.

The institute gives shelter to orphans (both boys and girls) and fatherless children, if the mothers are unable to maintain them, at the discretion of the Arya Pradeshik Sabha. It looks after and brings up the orphans. It imparts to them the highest education (academic or technical), provided they have the requisite aptitude for it. The boys leave the institute when they are able to earn their livelihood. The girls are married off by the institute after they have passed their Higher Secondary Examination.

The institute also runs a charitable dispensary for the public, a primary school for both inmates of the institute and other children, and a middle school for girls.

Organizations of National or International Repute

Besides the above, there are a number of other organizations of national or international repute. They are established elsewhere, but have their branches in the District.

Lions Club, Firozpur.—The Lions Club, Firozpur, was formed on 3 November 1974, with an initial strength of 30 members possessing the zeal to do something for the downtroddens, put their heads together to think of the ways and to create means for their uplift.

The main function of the Club are the welfare and service activities in the field of public-health education and other fields, to take active interest in the civil, culture, social and moral welfare of the community, to promote principles of good government and good citizenship; to promote high ethical standard in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavours.

The Lions Club has been in service to humanity without any thought to race, creed, relation, nationality, etc. It helps the patients in the local hospitals in every way possible, through medicines to the civil hospital. Its aim is to give facilities to the poor, with a view to solving the difficulties experienced by the relatives of the patients admitted in the Civil Hospital, Firozpur. In 1976-77, a huge shed for the relatives of the patients was constructed on the premises of the Civil Hospital, Firozpur. A shed for passengers has also been constructed on the Firozpur-Muktsar Road on the National Hotel crossing.

It celebrates *Raksha Bandan* every year with the destitute inmates of Arya Anathalya, Firozpur Cantonment. On this occasion, stationery, toilet articles and medicines are given to the orphanage. Besides, it celebrates, important festivals, such as Dussehra, Dewali and Lohri and gifts are given to the children of the poor. The Independence Day is celebrated every year at the Village of Rajoke at the Indo-Pakistan Border. A medical camp is also organized on the occasion.

Leo Club, Firozpur.—The Leo Club Firozpur is a part and parcel of the Lions Club, Firozpur. Its members are about 45, mostly students, who work independently and help the Lions Club in various activities. Its members are rendering useful service to the citizens of Firozpur by organizing different competitions for the school-going children and by inspiring young talent to come forward.

The Indian Red Cross Society (District Branch), Firozpur

The Firozpur District Red Cross Branch was formed on 7 September 1915 under the Presidentship of B.N. Bosworth Smith, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner, Firozpur, during the World War I, with a view to alleviating distress and suffering and to help the sick and the wounded in time of peace and war. This was the first District Branch formed in the Punjab. It steadily did humanitarian work for the welfare of the soldiers during the World War I, during floods, epidemics and also during the World War II and continued its activities till the partition of the country in 1947.

The Punjab State Red Cross Branch was established at Simla in 1948. From about the middle of the sixties, the activities of the Red Cross were intensified in the District. The aims and objects of the society are: hospital welfare; community health and sanitation, giving relief to the sick, suffering and wounded persons; the relief to soldiers, sailors, airmen and other military personnel; maternity and child welfare; assistance to the junior Red Cross activities; the blood-transfusion service, training of doctors, lady health visitors, midwives, nurses, nurse *dais*, etc; disaster

and emergency relief of all kind; family-planning activities; and assistance to St. John Ambulance Association and charitable institutions approved by the Indian Red Cross Society.

The main sources of income of the Society are collection through sale of the lucky-bag tickets, membership subscriptions, contributions, donations, rent-from shops, etc.

The main activities of the Red Cross Society are detailed below:

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The District Red Cross Branch, Firozpur, is running a health centre at Zira with 3 sub-centres at Talwandi Bhai, Talwandi Mangekhan and Basti Machhianwala. The Health Centre, Zira, has trained a number of *dais*, who attend to labour cases. A good number of labour cases are also supervised by the lady health visitors. Sometime back, a large number of trained-*dai* centres were established in the rural areas of the District but, later on, their number was reduced as the *trained dais* became available in most of the villages. In 1980, there were 10 trained-*dai* centres functioning in the District.

Ambulance Training.—The District St. John Ambulance Association, Firozpur, imparts training in ambulance, first-aid, home-nursing, etc. During 1980, the number of persons, trained in the District in first-aid and home-nursing was 3,014 (1,496 males and 1,518 females) and 872 (110 males and 762 females) respectively. Emergency Training Camps are also held. In them, apart from first-aid and home nursing, training is also given to the campers in rescue and fire-fighting. The District Branch maintains two ambulance cars for the convenience of the public.

Hospitals.—This organization is making strenuous efforts to extend medical facilities to the people. With this view, one phase of a 25-bed hospital under 1/3 scheme of Government of India at Mudki has been completed. Similarly, both phases except some finishing work of the hospital under the scheme at Bhinder Kalan have also been completed. The 25-bed hospital under this scheme at the Village of Killianwala is under construction. Besides, a medical cum-community Welfare Centre has been started in Basti Ram Lal of the Village of Mastek.

Hospital Welfare.—There is one Hospital Welfare Section, consisting of 60 members functioning at Firozpur under the District Red Cross, Branch. Their members visit the hospitals and distribute medicines, fruits, etc. to the patients.

Welfare of Soldiers.—Besides entertaining the *jawans* with light refreshments at railway stations, gift parcels, containing woollen garments and sweets are sent to the *jawans* of the Indian Army, posted on the border during war time. Moreover, sewing machines are given to the families of disabled or killed soldiers and tricycles are also given to some handicapped persons of the District.

Rotary Club, Firozpur

The Club at Firozpur was formed in 1952. In 1979-80, it had more than 29 members.

The Rotary programme is to encourage and foster the 'ideal of service', as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster: the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; high ethical standard in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society; the application of the "Ideal of Service" by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life; the advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the 'Ideal of Service'.

Rotary is world fellowship of business and professional executives who accept the 'Ideal of Service' as the basis for success and happiness in business and community life. In Rotary, thoughtfulness of others is regarded as the basis of the service, and helpfulness to others as its expression. Together, they constitute the Rotary "Ideal of Service".

CHAPTER XIX

PLACES OF INTEREST

The Firozpur District lies in the South-West of the Punjab. Broadly speaking, it is bounded on the north-east by the Satluj River, which separates it from the districts of Jalandhar and Kapurthala ; on the north-west and west by the united stream of the Satluj and the Beas, which separates it from the Amritsar District in the north and Pakistan in the west. There are quite a good number of places of historical and religious interest in the District. The important places have been described below in alphabetical order :

Abohar.—Situated at a distance of 32 km from Fazilka, the tahsil headquarters, and 56 km from Muktsar, Abohar is linked by road with Fazilka, Muktsar, Bathinda, Ganganagar (Rajasthan), Hanumangarh (Rajasthan) and Dabwali (Haryana). It lies on the Hindumalkote-Bathinda section of the Northern Railway and is 28 km from Hindumalkote and 73 km from Bathinda. Its population was only 1,477 in 1858, 2,056 in 1891, 9,492 in 1911, 25,476 in 1951, 46,863 in 1961, 58,925 in 1971 and 86,334 in 1981.

The town of Abohar is said to have been founded by one Abheraj Bhatti during the twelfth century and was called Abhegarh after his name. Abohar is an ancient town mentioned by Ibn Batuta a traveller from Egypt about A.D. 1341 as the first town in Hindustan, on the way from Multan to Delhi. There exists remains of a large fort which must have been at one time of considerable strength, and the villagers have a tradition that many centuries ago it was held by a Rajput Raja, Abram Chand. They tell that his horses were one day carried off in a raid (*dhaar*) made by the Saiyads of Uchan towards Multan, and as he had no son, his daughter, dressed as a man, went after the raiders, armed with a sword, a gun and a bow and arrows, and after exploits with the raiders brought back the spoil of uchan which consisted chiefly of horses. The Saiyads of Uchan, being holy men, endeavoured to get back their property by threatening to curse the spoilers, and, forming a *mela* or cursing committee, they came and sat *dharna*, as it were, on the sand-ridge east of Abohar. But the Raja held out so long that the women of the Saiyads at Uchan got tired of waiting for the return of their husbands, and came in a body to look for them. When the Saiyads on the ridge saw their wives approaching, they called down curses on all around, and they themselves and their wives and the inhabitants of the town all died on the spot. The *pakka* tomb of the women in the cemetery, and that of the holy men (*pir*) on the sand-ridge exist unto this day 'to witness if I lie'. This place is known as Panj Pir. A fair lasting for two days is held here in

July-August every year, and a large number of people visits this place. People also visit it on every Thursday to pay their homage.

In the beginning of the nineteenth century, Abohar was uninhabited, and the whole country around was a desert prairie. About 1828, a body of Musalman herdsmen, headed by Amra Sukhera from Bigar near Fatehabad, came and settled here. At that time, the only established villages in the neighbourhood were Bhatner, Gudda, Malaut, Salem Shah and Gaurdyana to the west, and to the south-west for several hundred miles there was not a village. Soon after the Sikhs began to extend their authority southwards, and the Sukheras had a lease granted them in 1828 by the Sikh Bhai of Kaithal authorizing them to settle at Abohar. At first, the three Sikh Chiefs of Arnauli, Jhumba and Kaithal had each a third share in this territory, and each had a separate fort and force at Abohar, where they were constantly quarrelling about their respective rights. Jhumba's share came into the hands of Patiala, under whom the large pakka well was made. In 1838, the tract came under the British rule, and Captain Thoresby granted leases to Amra and other Musalman residents of the village of all the unoccupied land in the neighbourhood, which then amounted to over 300 square miles (777 sq. km). According to tradition, which probably exaggerates, there were then 1,400 houses in Abohar, and a lakh and a quarter of cattle grazed in the prairie land attached to it, and produced daily 60 maunds (22.38 quintals) of ghee, which was then the chief article of trade. But when the prairie waste was gradually brought under the plough and new colonies were established in the country around, many of the Abohar traders left it for smaller village or migrated to the new Fazilka town which was much more advantageously situated for the rising grain trade, and soon eclipsed Abohar.¹

Abohar is a class I municipality. There are D.A.V. College, Gopi Chand Arya Mahila College and D.A.V. College of Education, 1 higher secondary school for boys, 13 high schools (8 for boys and 5 for girls), 5 middle Schools (4 for boys and 1 for girls) and 15 primary schools. Besides, there is a Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya. There are two libraries, viz. Municipal Library and Hindi Sahitya Sadan Library. There are also the Nehru Municipal Stadium and the Abohar Club.

There are four Government hospitals/dispensaries, viz. Nehru Civil Hospital, Maternity Hospital, T.B. Clinic, E.S.I. Dispensary and two private dispensaries, viz. Sewa Samiti Ayurvedic Dispensary and Gita Mandir Free Dispensary ; and Daulat Rai T. B. Clinic (Chest).

¹Wilson, J. Final Report on the Revision of Settlement of the Sirsa District in the Punjab, 1879-83, Calcutta, 1884), p. 195

Besides, there are a government family welfare clinic and a maternity and child-health centre at Abohar.

There are three rest-houses, viz. Canal Rest-House, Railway Officers' Rest-House and Market Committee Rest-House ; and three *dharmshalas*, viz. Tantia Wali Dharmshala, Sharda Trust Dharmshala and Arorbans Dharmshala. There are a police-station and *sadar thana*. Besides, there are a post and telegraph office, 5 sub-post offices, a micro-wave station and a telephone exchange.

There are 2 cotton-mills, viz. Shree Bhiwani Cotton-Mills and Industries, Ltd ; Jagjit-Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factory, besides Advance Oil-Mills at Abohar in the large-scale sector.

Abohar is the biggest market for cotton in India and is also important for other agricultural produce. It has also been styled as the California of India, with large areas of land around the town put under citrus plantations. The Regional Fruit Research Station at Abohar is carrying on research on citrus, dates and grapes, and distributes young plants of tried varieties.

Bazidpur :—The village of Bazidpur is situated 7 km from the Firozpur Cantonment on the Firozpur-Moga road. Its population was 2,461 in 1971 in contrast with 1,875 in 1961.

There is a historical *gurudwara*, known as Gurudwara Gurusar, built in the memory of Guru Gobind Singh. It is said that the Guru rested at this place on his way to the village of Rupana after the battle of Muktsar. The *Jand*-tree to which the Guru tied his horse, still exists. The building of the Gurudwara and the sarowar (tank) were built by the erstwhile rulers of the Faridkot State. A big fair is held here on Basant Panchmi (8-9 February) every year when a large number of people from far and wide visit the place. A *mela* is also held here on every Amavas. *Langar* is served to the visitors.

Fazilka :—Headquarters of the tahsil/subdivisions of Fazilka are connected both by rail and road. It is a junction and terminus railway station on the Rewari-Bathinda-Fazilka Section of the metre-gauge line of the Northern Railway. It is also connected by the Fazilka-Firozpur Cantonment section of the broad-gauge line of the Northern Railway. By rail, Fazilka is 80 km from Kot Kapura, 428 km from Rewari and 99 km from Firozpur cantonment. By road, it is 87 km from Firozpur, 56 km from Malaut, 34 km from Abohar and 15 km from the international Sulemanki border with Pakistan. Its population was 3,406 in 1868, 6,851 in 1881, 10985 in 1911, 25934 in 1951, 32015 in 1961, 36,281 in 1971 and 43,548 in 1981.

When in 1844, the tract of country on the Satluj was ceded by Bahawalpur, there was no village where Fazilka now stands, but Vans Agnew, the first officer stationed there, built himself a bungalow, in which the office of the Subdivisional Officer (Civil), Fazilka, is now located. From that bungalow, the place became known as Bangla, a name still given to the town and tahsil by the people. Two years later, Oliver established a few shops there, and gave the place the name of Fazilka from Fazil, one of early Wattu settlers. Its favourable position near the Satluj enabled it to engross almost the whole of the export trade from the great desert tract towards Sind (now in Pakistan), and made it very soon a flourishing market. A most destructive flood visited Fazilka in 1908 and practically the whole of the town collapsed and had to be rebuilt.

It is a class II municipality. There are a degree college (M.R. College); 3 high schools for boys and 1 higher secondary school for girls; 3 middle schools (2 for boys and 1 for girls) and 12 primary schools. There are two libraries, viz. the Sunam Rai Municipal Library and the Sadhu Ashram Library. There are three rest-houses, viz. the P.W.D. Rest-House, the Canal Rest-House and the Market Committee Rest-House, besides one serai, viz. Aggarwal Ashram. There are a civil hospital, a maternity and child-health centre; 4 private Ayurvedic dispensaries; a veterinary hospital; a police-station and sadar police-station; and a post and telegraph office, 2 sub-post offices and a telephone exchange. There are three separate parks for men, women and children, situated adjacent to one another. There is a centrally located clock tower.

Before the partition of the country in 1947, Fazilka was the biggest wool market in India, but thereafter the trade has been hit very hard, with a major portion of the supply area going to Pakistan and the Bikaner Town gradually attracting the raw wool produced in Rajasthan. Other products, for which the town is known, are *baan*, *moorhas* and *sirkis*.

Ferozeshah:—About 16 km from Firozpur (the tahsil headquarters) on the Moga-Firozpur road lies the village of Ferozeshah, the scene of the memorable battle fought on 21 December 1845 during the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46). Its population was 1,793 in 1951, 19,55 in 1961 and 1,923 in 1971.

The battle of Ferozeshah was fought on 21 and 22 December 1845 under Sir Henry Hardinge and Sir Hugh Cough. The Sikh Camp was most formidably entrenched, and it was only captured after two days' hard fighting. The British triumph was complete, but the loss of the victors was heavy 2,000 killed and wounded. Thirty-seven officers were slain, and double that number were injured. The loss of the Sikhs was computed at 8,000; seventy-three guns were captured. This battle occurred only three days after Mudki, an engagement so furiously contested, and so

exhausting to the British troops engaged that the Commander-in-Chief had grave doubts whether to fight so soon. The Sikh Army was estimated at 50,000 men and 100 guns, whereas the British force numbered only 5,000. The Governor-General, before the battle, handed his watch and star to his son's care, showing that he was determined to be victorious, or die in the struggle. Prince Waldemar of Prussia and his staff, Counts Grueben and Orioli, and Dr. Hoffmeister, were present at the battle. The latter was unfortunately killed by a grapeshot. Prince Waldemar left the field at the urgent request of the Governor-General, who was unwilling that a foreign prince should be further exposed to the risks of warfare¹.

To commemorate the event, a memorial was erected in 1869. It is in the nature of a cenotaph, a triangular pillar of masonry, some 80 feet high.

In 1976, the Punjab Government set up the Anglo-Sikh War Memorial at Ferozeshah in the memory of the Sikh warriors who laid down their lives in the Anglo-Sikh Wars. It is situated near the Village of Ghall Khurd on the Moga-Firozpur road near the bridge of Rajasthan Feeder at a distance of 20 km from Firozpur. The memorial has a majestic building and is spread over 2.5 kanals (1,042 square metres). It contains a museum, in which the paintings made by great artists, and war weapons, such as *janzails*, matchlock guns, flintlock guns, barrel guns, *jamuras*, swords, daggers and shields along with *zarai-baktar* are displayed.

The present Village of Ferozeshah is raised on the debris (*thek*) of the old village. Almost all the houses are pucca. In 1970-71, this village was included in the Model Village Scheme which aims at giving impetus to development work and creating better living conditions in the villages. Under the scheme, the paving of streets and the construction of drains in the village have been completed. Arrangements for protected water-supply have also been made.

There are a Government high school (co-educational), a middle school for girls, a primary school, a primary health centre; a family welfare clinic ; a sub-post office and a canal rest-house.

Firozpur Cantonment:-The population of the Firozpur Cantonment was 15,861 in 1868, 26,158 in 1911, 38,784 in 1951, 46,327 in 1961, 41,571 in 1971 and 44,678 in 1981. The following monuments in the locality are worth mentioning.

¹Ross, David, *The land of the Five Rivers and Sindh* (Reprinted in 1970), pp-118-19

The Saragarhi Memorial

Built in the shape of *gurudwara* in a beautifully laid-out park, on the Firozpur-Lahore road, this monument was erected in the memory of the 21 men of the 36th Sikh Regiment of the Punjab Infantry who fell in the heroic defence of the Fort of Saragarhi on 12 September 1897 and in the gallant sortie from Fort Gulistan on 13 September 1797 in Baluchistan¹. Every year on 12 September thousands of people gather at this place for celebrating the Saragarhi Day and for paying tributes to the heroes. This memorial service on the day serves as a reunion of ex-servicemen.

The Burki Monument

Situated close to the Saragarhi Memorial, this monument was raised in the memory of the *jawans* and officers killed during the capture of Burki (Pakistan) by the Indian Army on 10 September 1965 during the Indo-Pakistan Conflict of 1965. The town of Burki is situated on the main road from Lahore to Patti.

Firozpur Cantonment.—(a class I cantonment) is managed by the the Cantonment Board. There are the D.A.V. College for Women; the Guru Nanak College (co-educational), 3 higher secondary schools (2 for boys and 1 for girls), 3 high schools (2 for boys and 1 for girls), 1 middle school for boys and 7 primary schools. There are a library and two reading rooms, viz. the Badri Parshad Library, the Cantonment Board Reading Room, and the Information Centre of the Public Relations Department, Punjab. There are 4 hospitals, and 2 dispensaries, viz. the Cantonment General Hospital, the Police Hospital, the Frances Newton Hospital, the Railway Hospital, the Canal Dispensary and a subsidized dispensary. There are 4 rest-houses, viz. the Canal Rest-House, the Electricity Board Rest-House, Sainik Rest-house and the Railway Officers Rest-House, besides 4 serais. The administrative offices of the District are mostly situated in the Cantonment area. There are a police-station, besides a a police-post.

Firozpur City.—Situated quite close to the Indo-Pakistan border, it is well connected by rail and road. Four km from the Firozpur Cantonment, the Firozpur City is on the Fazilka-Firozpur Cantonment line of the Northern Railway. By road, it is connected with Fazilka (87 km), Abohar (121 km), Malaut (81 km), Kot Kapura (41 km), Ludhiana

¹Mills, H. Woosnam, *Revolt in North-West India*

In the memory of the Saragarhi heroes, memorials have been built near Lockhart on the Somana Ridge in NWFP (Pakistan), another near the Golden Temple in Amritsar, a third at Firozpur Cantonment and a fourth at The Sikh Regimental Centre, Meerut

(121 km) and Kot Lsa Khan (50 km). Its population was 20,592 in 1868, 24,678 in 1911, 40,703 in 1951, 47,060 in 1961, 51,090 in 1971 and 61,162 in 1981.

Firozpur was founded, according to one tradition, about 1360 by Firoz Shah Tughlak (Emperor of Delhi, A.D. 1351—1387), who had a passion for founding cities. It is also stated that Firozpur was founded by one of the Bhatti Chiefs, named Firoz Khan, but the first version is widely accepted.

In the time of Akbar, according to the *Ain-i-Akbari*, the Satluj flowed east of Firozpur, instead of west, as at present; the District then formed a portion of the Multan Subah. That it was originally a place of great size is demonstrated by the extensive ruins. The old fort must at one time have been a place of considerable strength. It formed an irregular building, one hundred yards long and about forty yards broad, formerly surrounded by a ditch, ten feet wide and ten feet deep. Before the British government made necessary alterations during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It is described as a picturesque building. In November 1838, Lord Auckland, the Governor-General of India, held a grand review at Firozpur, when Maharaja Ranjit Singh, with his generals was present, and witnessed the manoeuvres of about 15,000 troops. This was previous to the first Afghan campaign, when the various regiments were on their march to that country. The mimic warfare and display of British discipline and tactics greatly impressed the ruler of the Punjab.

The town was in a declining state at the time of the British Annexation. According to a census taken by Sir Henry Lawrence, in 1838, the population was 2,732; and in 1841, chiefly through the exertions of Sir Henry Lawrence, had risen to 4,841. The market-place towards the east of the old fort was built by him, and the main bazaar was also completed under his directions; the oldest street in the town being the one, now called Purana Bazaar. Under the British, Firozpur was the Chief arsenal for northern India, well stored with munitions of war, and, therefore, a place of considerable importance.¹

The town once used to be surrounded by a wall, of which the ten gates, viz. the Delhi Gate, the Mori Gate, the Baghdaudi Gate (formerly known as the Ludhiana Gate), the Zira Gate, the Makhu Gate, the Bansanwala Gate, the Amritsari Gate, the Kasuri Gate, the Multani Gate and the Magazine Gate, still exist. The old town itself is divided into two parts by the main bazaar, which runs from the Delhi Gate in the south to the Basanwala Gate in the north. A metalled circular road girdles the town.

¹Ross, David, *The Land of the Five Rivers and Sindh* (Reprinted in 1970) pp. 116—18

The old Fort of the City is now no more, but some traces of it are still left; the tomb of a Muhammadan saint, called Nur Shah Vali, situated on an eminence opposite the old tahsil building, indicates its site. *Rani-ka-talab*, called after Sardarni Lachman Kaur, once the ruler of Firozpur, is now dry. On one side of the tank, there are the *smadhs* of Sardarni Lachman Kaur (died issueless in December 1835) and her husband Sardar Dhanna Singh (died in 1819).

The memorial of martyrs Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdew is situated on the right bank of the Satluj River. Its foundation stone was laid on 23 March, 1965. This is that hallowed spot where the chopped-up bodies of the hero-martyrs were secretly cremated at the dead of night, after their having been executed on 23 March 1931 in the Central Jail, Lahore, by the British Government. Outside the memorial, the *smadh* of the Punjab Raj Mata (mother of martyr Bhagat Singh) has been erected.

Firozpur has a class I municipality. There are three colleges, viz. the Dev Samaj College for Women and the R.S.D. College (for boys), both up to M.A. classes, and the Dev Samaj College of Education for women; 8 Higher Secondary schools (4 each for boys and girls); 3 middle schools (2 for boys and 1 for girls) and 14 primary schools. There are three libraries and one reading-room, viz. the Municipal Library (near the Fire Brigade Station), the Municipal Library (in Tankanwali Basti), the Gandhi Library and the Jaswant Reading Room. There are 4 hospitals, viz. the Civil Hospital, the T.B. Clinic, the Central Jail Hospital the Mobile Eye Hospital, and two urban family-welfare units. Besides, there is an Ayurvedic institution. There are also a veterinary hospital, a head post and telegraph office and 6 sub-post offices. There are a *Panchayat bhawan*, two serais and six *janjghars* (places for marriage-parties to stay). Besides, there are a police-station, a *sadar thana* and police-post/outposts.

Guru Har Sahai.—Situated on the Firozpur-Fazilka section of the Northern Railway, Guru Har Sahai is 39 km from Firozpur (the tahsil headquarters) and 50 km from Fazilka. It is also connected by road with both of these places. Its population was 3,128 in 1951, 4,293 in 1961, 4,601 in 1971 and 7,684 in 1981.

It is a class III municipality. There are two high schools, one each for boys and girls, and 5 primary schools. There is a municipal library. There is a missionary hospital for women, known as the Dr. D.L. Ferris Hospital. It also attends on outdoor male patients. Besides, there are a primary health centre and an urban family-welfare centre. There are a veterinary dispensary, a police-station, a post and telegraph office and a telephone exchange. There are also a municipal park and a water-works.

It is an important market for paddy, wheat and chillies. The market-place is well laid out and cemented. There are many rice-shellers and rice-hullers.

At the two temples, dedicated to two virgins, known as Mata Jajol and Mata Hansewali, fairs are held twice a year.

The original village of Guru Har Sahai is contiguous to the town where, in the *Pothi Mala Temple*, a *pothi* (book) and a *mala* (rosary) of Guru Nanak Dev, and a stone in which the image of Guru Nanak Dev is stated to be visible, used to be shown to the public by the family of the local descendants of the Gurus. Out of these objects, the *pothi* is said to have been lost in 1970.

Jalalabad.—It is connected both by rail and road. By rail, it is connected with Firozpur and Fazilka (the tahsil headquarters) from which places it is 53 km and 33 km respectively. By road, it is connected with Firozpur, Fazilka and Muktsar, from which places it is 54 km, 33 km and 28 km respectively. Its population was 6,283, in 1951, 7,723 in 1961, 11,032 in 1971 and 16,639 in 1981.

The town has a class II municipality. There are a Government high school for boys and another for girls and 5 primary schools. Besides, there are a Government basic training school and a municipal library. There are a civil hospital, a maternity and child welfare health centre, a police-station, a post and telegraph office, a telephone exchange and a veterinary hospital. The town has also a park for children and 2 *serais*.

Rice and wheat are the main agricultural commodities of the area. There are a number of rice-shellers in the town. A cattle fair is held here annually in January.

Kot Isa Khan.—Situated on the crossing of the Moga-Zira road and the Dharmkot-Zira road, Kot Isa Khan is 16 km from Moga, 14 km from Zira (the tahsil headquarters) and 8 km from Dharmkot. A separate road, 13 km in length, links it with Fatehgarh Panjor. Its population was 1,654 in 1951, 2,760 in 1961 and 3,353 in 1971.

The place is named after Nawab Isa Khan of this *ilaka*, a descendant of Net Ahmad Khan, a Panwar Rajput, who got the title of Nawab from Emperor Akbar in appreciation of a feat of strength shown by him at the imperial court.

The Firozpur District Gazetteer.—1915, refers on page 47 to two inscriptions, dated respectively 170 and 193 (of what era, it is not certain) at Kot Isa Khan. The former, on a marble slab, recording the

building of the mosque by one Ali Mahomed, now not existing. The latter is on a beam in the town gate, but seems to have originally belonged to some part of the old palace, as it is a prayer in verse for the protection of the palace. Aurang Shah is given as the name of the ruler, whereas the poet's name was Gurditta Mall.

There are a Government High School for boys, a Government High School for Girls and a Government Primary School, a primary health centre, a family welfare clinic and a veterinary dispensary and a post and telegraph office. There is also an Arya Samaj *dharma shala*.

The chief agricultural products marketed here are wheat and paddy.

Mudki.—Thirty-two km south-east of the tahsil headquarters at Firozpur, the village of Mudki is also connected by road with Faridkot, Bagha Purana and Zira. Its population was 2,808 in 1951, 3,235 in 1961 and 4,058 in 1971.

The village of Mudki is chiefly remarkable on account of the famous battle fought in its vicinity on 18 December 1845, during the First-Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46. The battle of Mudki was the first action that took place between the Sikhs and the British. The Sikh army numbered 30,000, with forty guns and the British force about 10,000 under the Governor-General, Sir Henry Hardings, and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Hugh Gough; but the Sikhs were repulsed and driven from position to position, with the loss of seventeen pieces of artillery. The victory cost the British 50 officers and 850 rank and file killed and wounded, 500 of whom were Europeans. Many are buried in the Firozpur Cemetery.

Among the slain was Sir Robert Sale, the gallant defender of Jalalabad in Afghanistan in the First Afghan War. Sir John Mc Caskill, the victor of Istalif, was also shot dead while gallantly leading his division. Almost all officers attached to the Governor-General as aides-de-camp were either killed or wounded.¹

In commemoration of this hard-won victory, the British erected a pillar in 1870. Situated at a few kilometres from the village of Mudki this pillar is in a better state of preservation than the pillars at the Ferozeshah and Sobraon battle fields. Originally, the pillar was surrounded by a wall, which now does not exist.

There are a high school for boys, a middle school for girls, a primary school and a hospital.

¹Ross, David. *The Land of the Five Rivers and Sindh* (Reprinted in 1970), P. 118

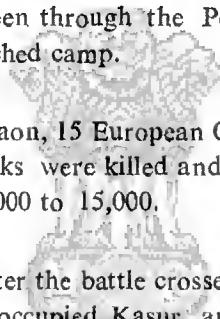
Sobraon Battlefield.—Sobraon is a small village (in the Patti Tahsil of the District Amritsar) on the right bank of the Satluj near the Harike Ferry, 24 km north of Zira and 40 km north-east of Firozpur, and near the confluence of the Beas and the Satluj. It was opposite this village on the left bank of the Satluj that the famous battle of 10 February 1846, named after Sobraon, was fought under the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Hugh Gough. This battle brought the First Anglo-Sikh War of 1845-46 to a close, and led to the occupation of Lahore by a British force. This scene of engagement falls in Zira Tahsil of the Firozpur District.

The British had the arduous task of attacking 30,000 Sikhs and seventy pieces of cannon, in a position covered with most formidable entrenchments—they might even be termed fortifications in contrast with Ferozeshah—constructed by a Spanish engineer, on the left or east bank of the Satluj, guarding the Harike Ford. The Sikh rear rested on the Village of Sobraon, connected by a bridge of boats, where a large force was kept in reserve, with artillery commanding and flanking the field-works. The scene of the engagement was on the left of bank of the Satluj, or on the Firozpur side. The battle has been designated as a grand artillery concert, as in the previous engagements, the British were particularly weak, not only in respect of the number of cannon, but also in respect of the supply of ammunition for the batteries in position. Even at Sobraon, after three hours, rapid firing, the reserve ammunition was nearly exhausted. Few Indian battles were so keenly contested. The Sikhs held their earth works with the utmost tenacity, until cut to pieces almost to a man; very few succeeded in escaping across the river. After the sappers had made openings in the entrenchments, the 3rd Dragoons charged, galloped over and cut down the obstinate defenders of batteries and field-works, and with the weight of three divisions of infantry and every available field gun, victory finally declared for the British after the varying fortune throughout the fight. An officer engaged writes, "The British pierced on every side and precipitated the Sikhs in masses over their bridge. The Satluj, having suddenly risen seven inches, was hardly fordable and owing to one of the boats from the centre of the bridge being let loose, so entirely cutting off the passage said to have been done by order of one of the Sikhs Sardars, the late Raja Tej Singh, either with the view of preventing the victors from following, or with the design of cutting off

**Ibid*, pp. 119-20

all hopes or retreat from the Sikhs, and forcing them to fight the enemy were driven into the stream, where they suffered a terrible carnage from the British Horse Artillery. Hundreds fell under this cannonade, and thousands were drowned in attempting the perilous passage. The awful slaughter, confusion, and dismay were such as would have excited compassion in the hearts of their generous conquerors, if the Khalsa troops had not in the earlier part of the action supplied their gallantry by killing and barbarously mongling every wounded soldier, whom in the vicissitudes of attack, the fortune of war left at their mercy. The river was covered with dead and dying, the mass of corpses actually proving a barrier in the middle of the stream**.

Sixty-seven Sikhs guns and upwards of 2,000 camel swivel guns, called *Zamburaha*, were captured by the British, as well as numerous standards. The battle lasted from dawn to noon. The gallant Sir Robert Dick, who had been through the Peninsular campaign fell in the attack on the entrenched camp.



In the battle of Sobraon, 15 European Officers were killed and 101 wounded; 2,383 of all ranks were killed and wounded. The Sikh loss was estimated at from 12,000 to 15,000.



The British Army after the battle crossed the river by a bridge of boats opposite Firozpur, occupied Kasur, and marched on Lahore.



In Commemoration of their victory in this battle, the British erected in 1868 a pillar near the Village of Roda in the Tahsil Zira.

Zira.—Headquarters of the tahsil, subdivision of the same name, Zira is connected by road with Talwandi Bhai (15 km), Firozpur (36 Km), Makhu (15 Km.) Dharamkot (22 km), and Moga (24 Km.). Its population was 2,702 in 1853, 3,492 in 1881, 4,378 in 1911, 6,389 in 1951, 8,118 in 1961, 9,264 in 1971 and 19,581 in 1981.

It is a class II municipality. There are a Government college (co-educational), 2 Government high schools (one each for boys and girls) and 4 primary schools. Besides, there are a municipal library and a reading-room, a community park, the Association Club, a civil hospital, a maternity and child-health centre, a veterinary hospital, a police-station and a police post, a post and telegraph office and a sub-post office, a telephone exchange and a *Panchayat samiti* rest house and Serai Sawan Mal.

The Jain Temple at Zira is worth mentioning. Built in 1890, this temple is 105 feet high, with three storeys. Its second part was constructed later in 1913-14. The paintings on the walls depict the life of Jain *tirthankras*. The temple is named after the 23rd *tirthankra*, Shri Parsavnath I. The main idol is believed to be one of the most sacred and ancient ones and was brought from Palitana Sidhgri in Gujarat. Some of the brass *murtis* (statues) are more than twelve hundred years old.

Zira is a good market for paddy and wheat. There are a number of rice-shellers at this place.





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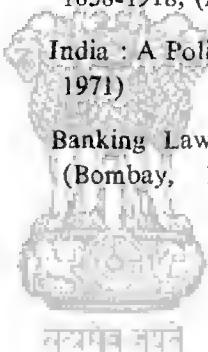
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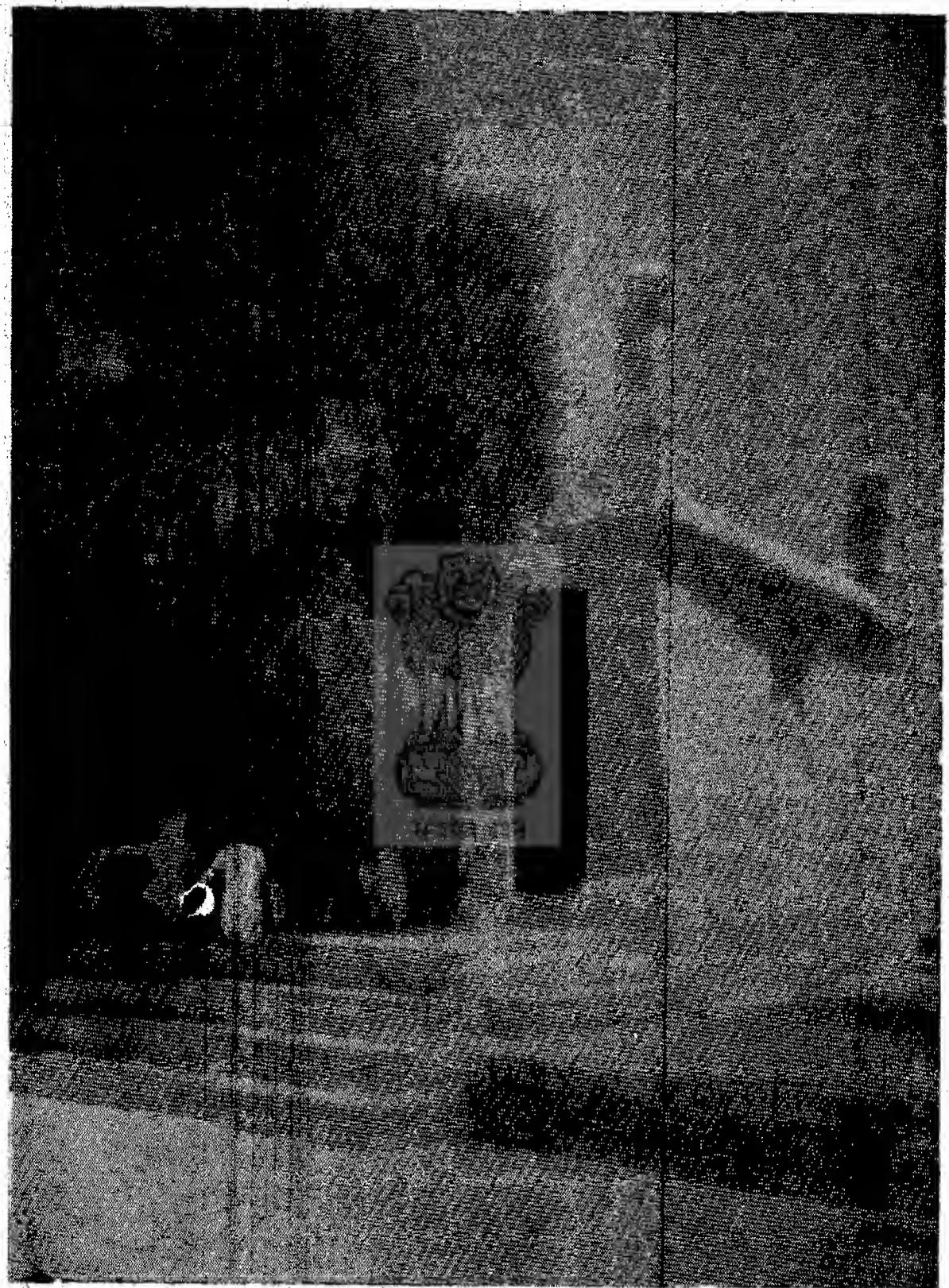
ERRATA

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
1	4	1	form	from
2	3	10	1958	1858
19	1	21	items	times
29	1	18	Sulej	Satluj
36	1	7	against	again
40	1	19	if	it
41	—	7	succedded	succeeded
42	1	10	Ranjit Singh	Ranjit Singh
43	—	10	1975	1875
51	—	4	orrdered	ordered
53	5	5	precautions	precautions
62	1	3	sparsley	sparsely
75	3	1	religious	religions
76	3	10	Khati	Khatri
78	1	10	ever	over
78	1	18	Jhamhaji	Jhambaji
79	4	7	Protstants	Protestants
80	7	3	particulary	particularly
101	2	2	fallow	fallow
126	Col. 1	1	Kharfi	Kharif
129	1	4	quarter	(black quarter)
129	2	3	appinted	appointed
130	Col. 1	Sr. No. 3	Jhok Tahal	Jhok Tehal Singh

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130	Col. 3	Sr. No. 11	Jhok Haribar	Jhok Harihar
131	Col. 1	—do—	Fatehgarh Pajtor	Fatehgarh Panjtor
137	Heading	1	the under	the area under
150	1	4	132	132 Kv
163	2	2	repaid	rapid
165	1	5	ccidental	occidental
167	1	15	eithr	either
169	1	12	hypothecatoin	hypothetication
169	2	9	agricularists	agriculturists
169	4	3	openend	opened
169	5	3	continued	continued
170	1	1	impoive	improve
192	4	3	block-topped	black-topped
196	3	4	position	position
203	Col. 2	Sr. No. 63	Lamdot	Mamdot
210	sub-heading III	—	Canronment	Cantonment
211	sub-heading V	—	Hindumalketa	Hindumalkote
213	Heading	Col. 2	outward (Nos)	Outward (Quintal)
213	—do—	Col. 3	Inward (Nos)	Inward (Quintal)
213	—do—	4	Percentage (Rs)	Outward (Rs)
213	—do—	5	Parcel (Rs)	Inward (Rs)
261	—	5	lecal	local
261	3	2	sub-tahsis	sub-tahsils

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268	State Government officers	Sr. No. 6	District	Deputy
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270	—ditto—	Sr. No. 45	Director	Assistant Director,
271	Central Government officers	Sr. No. 5	Manager, District	District Manager,
281	3	2	forming	farming
286	1	12	investment	investment
287	4	2	1972 to 1980	1970-1980
289	2	3	Salex	Sales
333	2	3	Tile	Till
333	6	2	Ocroio	Octroi
339	5	1	total	toll
340	5	1	tool	toll
367	5	10	needleworke	needlework
369	3	1	then	the
386	4	7	fluorid	fluoride
411	Heading		Advancememt	Advancement
435	3	4	prarty	party
461	3	3	circus	citrus
462	5	2	Cough	Gough
469	2	20	forutune	fortune
470	—	7	supplied	sullied
470	—	8	mongling	mangling
470	1	3	dawm	dawn

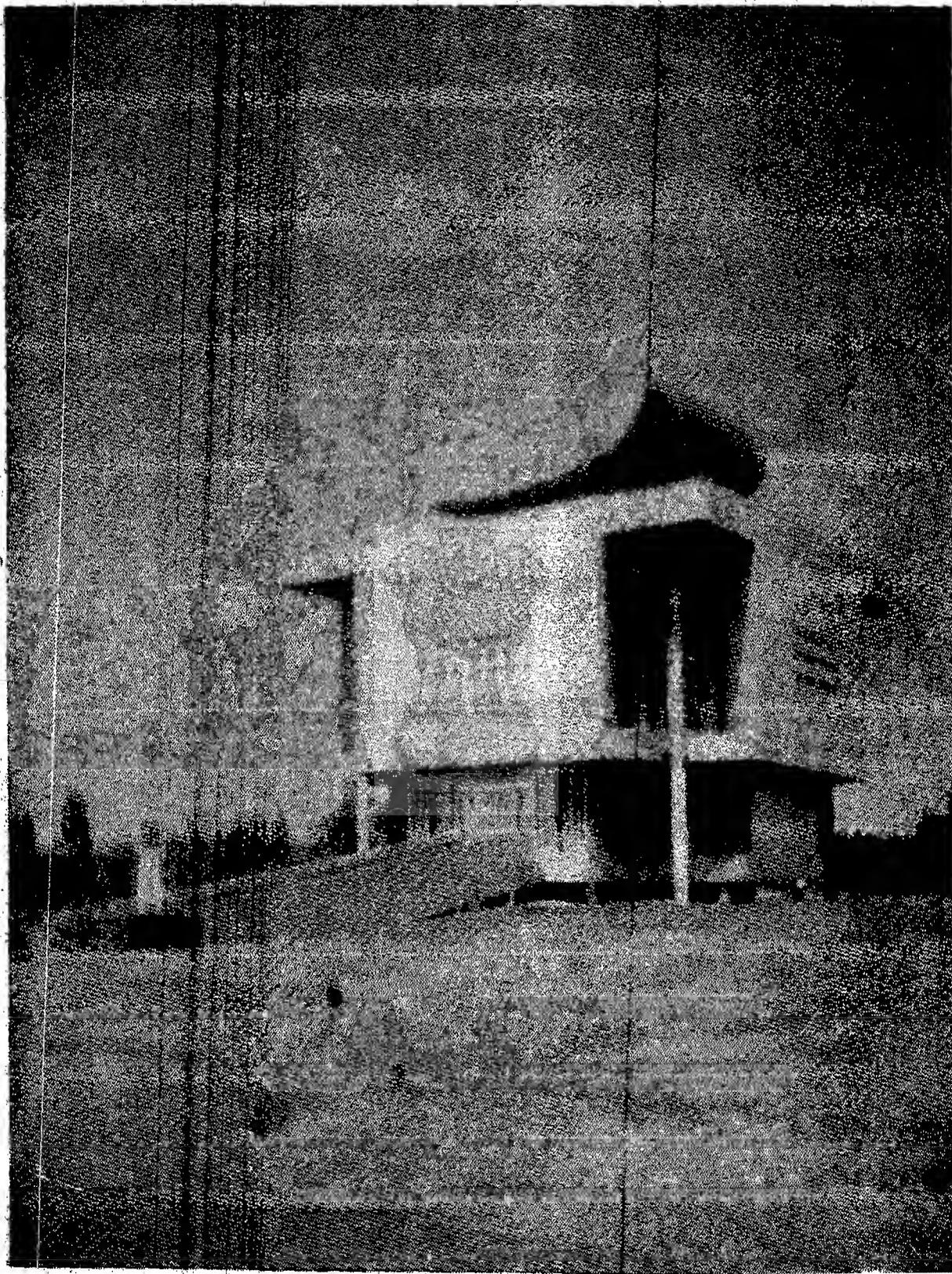




Panj Pir, Abohar



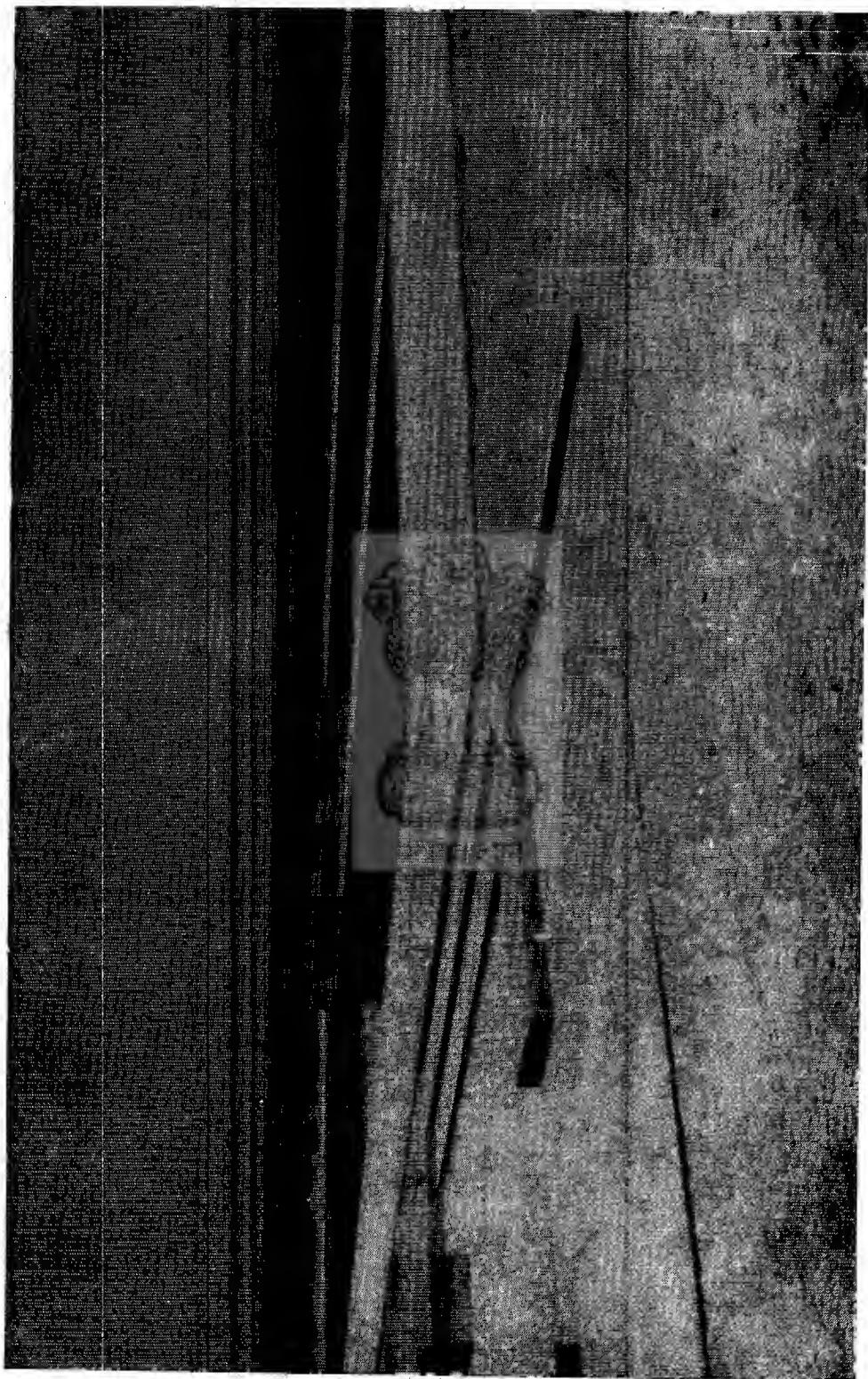
Victory Pillar at Sobraon



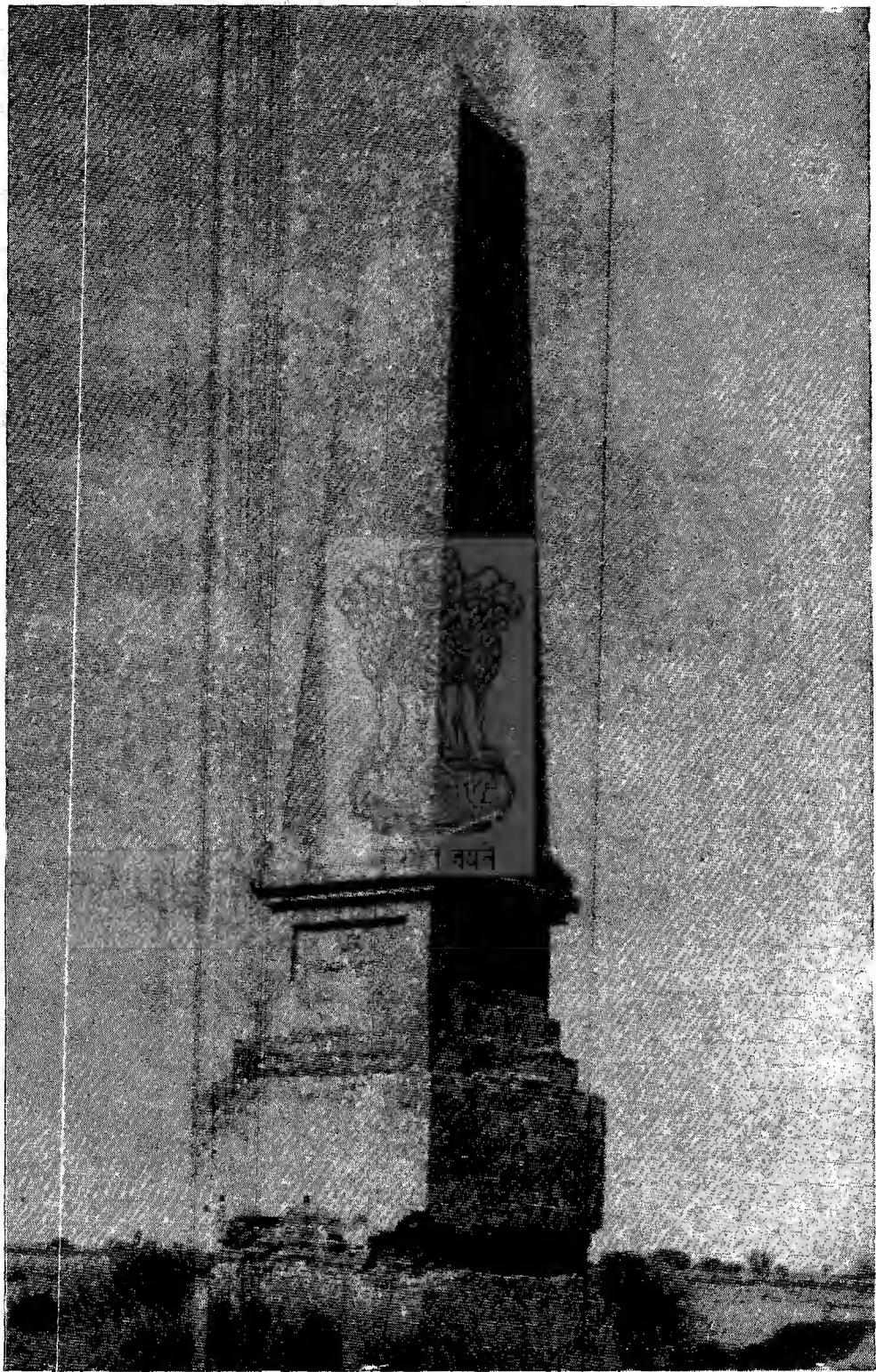
Anglo-Sikh War Memorial at Ferozeshah



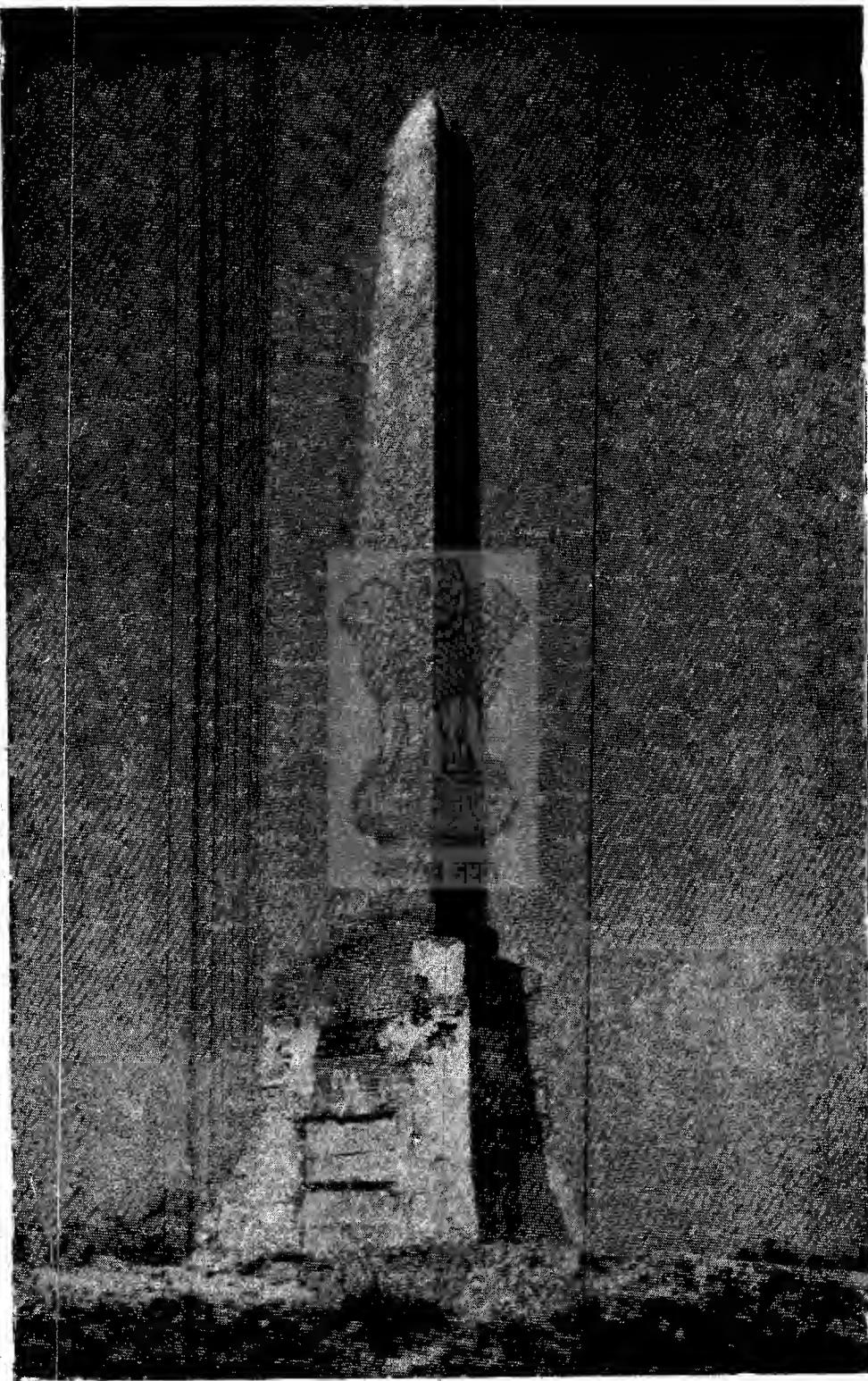
Saragarhi Memorial, Firozpur Cantonment



Memorial of Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Sukhdev at Hussainiwala.



Victory Pillar at Mudki



Victory Pillar at Ferozeshah

